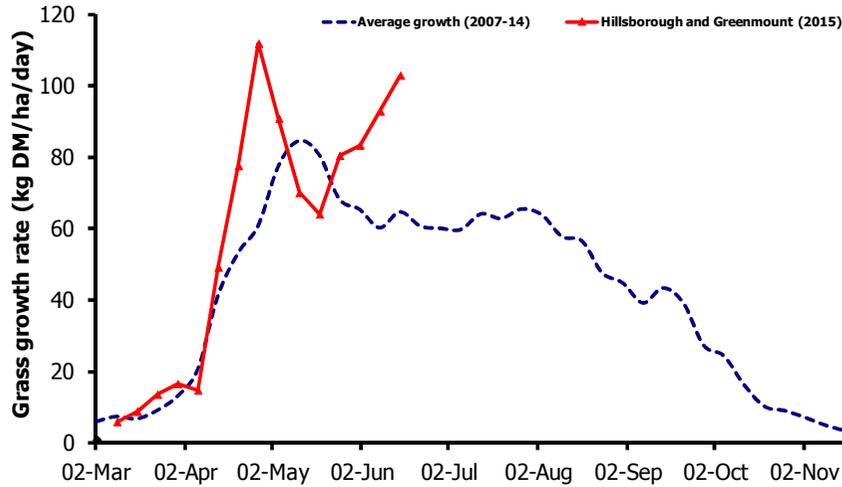


GrassCheck

Grass Growth and Quality

Week beginning 15 June 2015

Grazing Management Focus



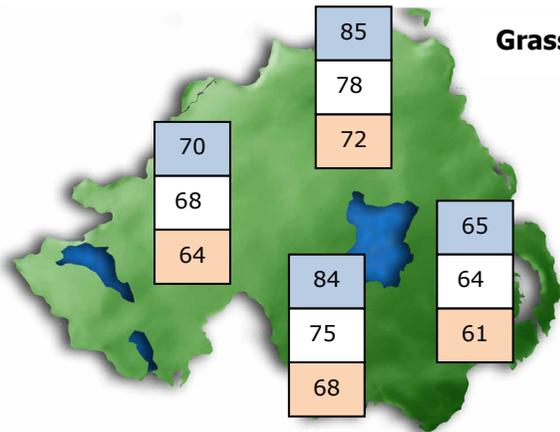
3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	110
Hillsborough	96
Downpatrick	68

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	20
ME (MJ/kg DM)	12.1
Crude protein (%)	14.5
Sugars (% DM)	20.7

Grass growth predictions represent the average daily growth over a 21 day period

Grass Growth Predictions (kg DM/ha/day)



Current
1 week ahead
2 weeks ahead

General comment: Despite cool overnight temperatures growth has increased well above average levels through early June. With high growth rates and ground conditions now also excellent, it is vital surpluses are identified and removed immediately.

Mark Blelock manages a herd of 130 high performing Holstein cows near Crumlin. Rolling herd performance is 10,059 l/cow from 3.9 t of concentrate and milk quality is 3.95% butterfat and 3.31% protein. The herd is managed as two groups with the higher yielding group (averaging 41 l/cow/d) housed until May. The lower yielding group has been on/off grazing by day since mid-March and full-time grazing since late May.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,680 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,400 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	90 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	71 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	6.6 cows/ha
Rotation length	21 days
Estimated grass intake	14 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,900 kg DM/ha

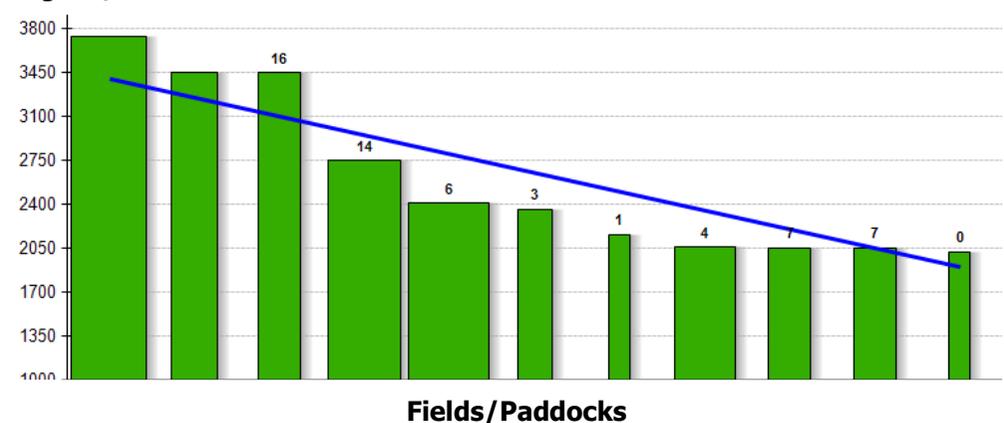
Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	30 litres/cow/day, 4.10% BF, 3.26% PR
Concentrate feed level	8.4 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	11.4 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Despite the challenging conditions in April/May cows have milked well with an average daily yield of 30 l/cow across the whole herd. Grazing swards that got ahead due to poor conditions were round baled and although these paddocks are below the target growth line, it is anticipated growth will improve significantly. With the higher yielders grazing by day, stocking rate on the platform has increased to 6.6 cows/ha but this will gradually reduce as drying off early autumn calvers will soon commence. The lower yielding group also receive a small amount of TMR after morning milking with meal levels set at M+ 18 litres.

kg DM/ha



Fields/Paddocks