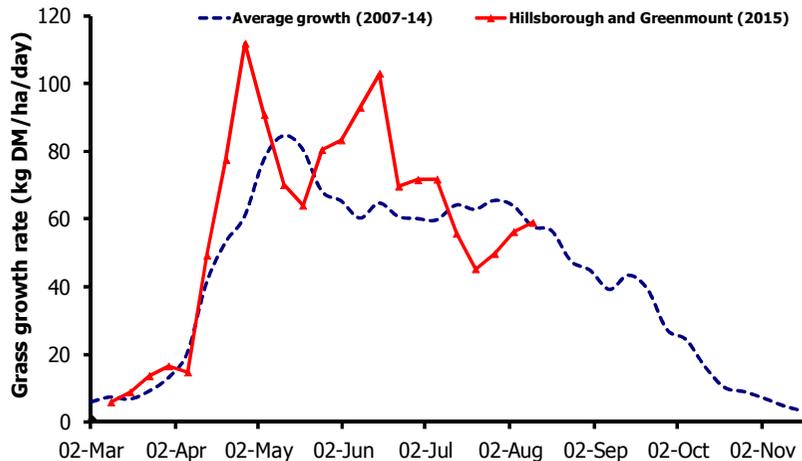


GrassCheck

Week beginning 10 August 2015

Grazing Management Focus

Grass Growth and Quality



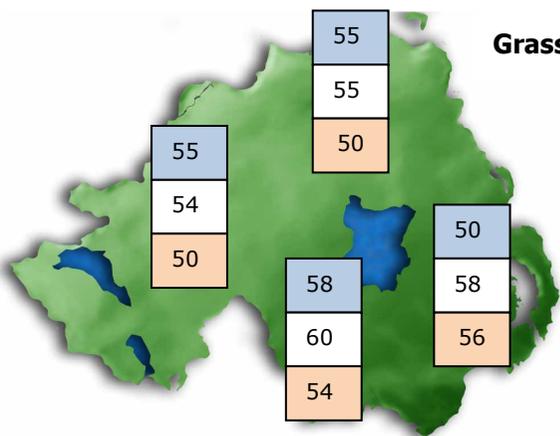
3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	57
Hillsborough	61
Downpatrick	53

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	15.5
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.7
Crude protein (%)	17.9
Sugars (% DM)	14.4

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: Although growing and grazing conditions have improved in the past week, conditions remain challenging on many farms. To allow grass to build for autumn grazing steadily increase rotation length, current target should be around 25 days.

Peter and Niall Conway manage a herd of 320 New Zealand Friesian and Jersey crossbred cows on their farm at Strangford, Co. Down. The herd is compact spring calving with all cows calved within a 10 week period. The main aim on the farm is to maximise milk from grass with a focus on milk quality. Rolling herd average is 5000 litres from 750kg of concentrate with a milk from forage of 3334 litres/cow.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,170 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,100 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	69 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	55 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	3.2 cows/ha
Rotation length	30 days
Estimated grass intake	17 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,500 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	18.2 litres/cow/day, 4.56% BF, 3.57% PR
Concentrate feed level	0 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	18.2 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Due to the low milk price, no meal is being fed at present with all production from grazed grass. Breeding finished in mid July after a 10 week period and the herd will be scanned this week. Any barren or problem cows will be culled to lower the stocking rate and enable grass covers to build up for extended grazing this autumn. As grass growth declines an additional 21.5ha will be brought into the grazing area following second cut silage which was taken in mid July. To date 8.75 tonnes grass DM/ha have been grown with a total season target of 15 tonnes to be grown with a utilisation of 80%.

