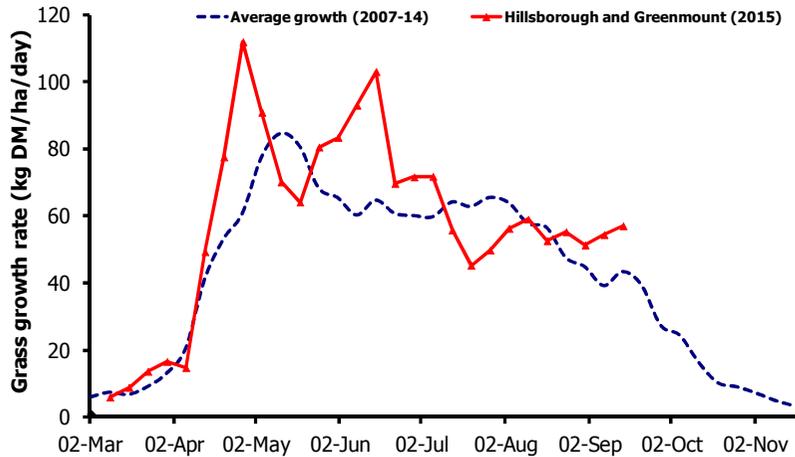


GrassCheck

Grass Growth and Quality

Week beginning 14 September 2015

Grazing Management Focus



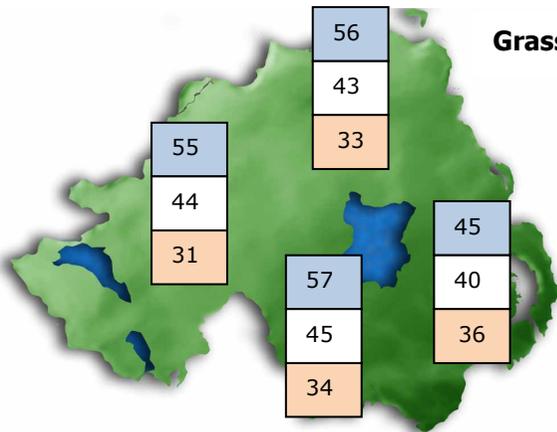
3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	56
Hillsborough	57
Downpatrick	41

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	13.0
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.8
Crude protein (%)	21.8
Sugars (% DM)	12.0

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: Grass growing and grazing conditions remain favourable on many farms, with growth well ahead of the seasonal average. Heavier soils however are still soft, but damage can be minimised by using extended grazing techniques when necessary.

The Greenmount Future Herd (150 cows) has a current rolling average milk yield of 9145 litres per cow with 2.9 tonnes concentrates fed. Emphasis is placed on production of quality grass for both grazing and silage. Milk from forage over the past year was 2706 litres of milk/cow. This has declined due to lower quality of first cut silage made in 2014 as a result of later harvest due to poor weather. Current rolling average milk quality/hygiene is: butterfat 4.15%, protein 3.31%, SCC 102, bactoscan 17.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,650 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,500 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	49 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	32 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	3.5 cows/ha
Rotation length	30 days
Estimated grass intake	12 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,700 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	22.2 litres/cow/day, 3.97% BF, 3.33% PR
Concentrate feed level	5.1 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	10.9 litres/cow/day

Management issues

There are 70 animals grazing full time (milk yield 17.8 litres/day, 3.45 kg conc, 275 days in milk). Parlour feeding for these animals is currently set at 0.45kg/l above M+13 for cows and M+10 for heifers. High yielders (19 cows, 192 days in milk, yield 33 litres/day, 10.6 kg conc fed per cow per day including 1 kg in TMR) are grazing by day and housed at night with access to TMR (grass/maize silage and 1 kg blend). Grazing conditions have improved with the recent dry weather and it is hoped to keep the low yielders out as long as possible. Surplus grass will be eaten by dry cows, youngstock and lambs to ensure covers are reduced before winter and to encourage swards to tiller out

