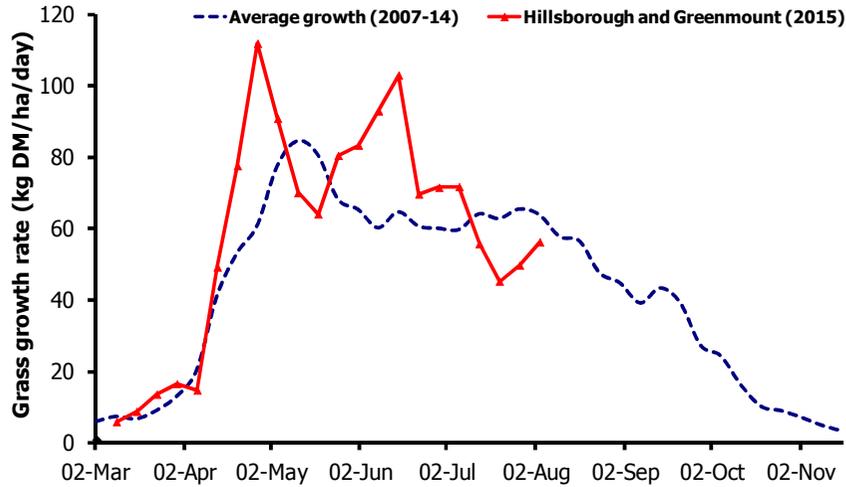


GrassCheck

Week beginning 3 August 2015

Grazing Management Focus

Grass Growth and Quality



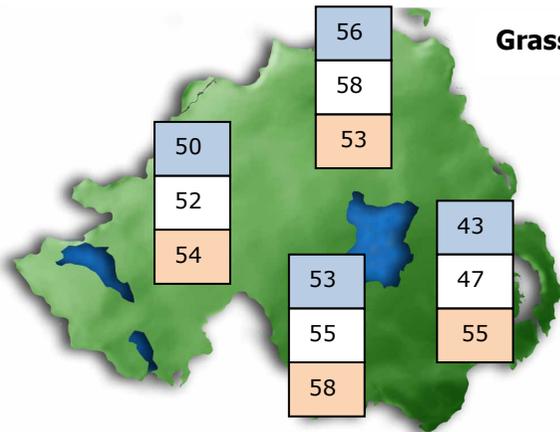
3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	60
Hillsborough	53
Downpatrick	43

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	18.6
ME (MJ/kg DM)	12.0
Crude protein (%)	14.8
Sugars (% DM)	18.7

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: Keeping the herd grazing is a real challenge currently in many areas with poor growth and very wet ground conditions. Grazing for short 2-3 hour periods, back-fencing and grazing square blocks are all options to help in these conditions.

Leslie Beggs manages a mainly spring calving herd of 228 New Zealand Friesian and Jersey crossbred cows on his farm on the outskirts of Omagh, Co Tyrone. Current rolling herd performance is 6547 litres/cow/year with a 4.72 BF% and 3.46% CP. Concentrate usage is 1707 kg /cow/year with an annual milk from forage of 2754 litres per cow. An excellent laneway infrastructure has been developed on the farm to maximise the utilisation of grazed grass.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,265 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	2,800 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	58 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	43 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	3.1 cows/ha
Rotation length	24 days
Estimated grass intake	14 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,600 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	18 litres/cow/day, 4.69% BF, 3.56% PR
Concentrate feed level	1.2 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	15.3 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Leslie is currently aiming to lengthen the grazing rotation to increase average farm cover as grass growth rate declines. This is being achieved by buffer feeding 10 kg/head big bale silage at milking times, drying off 22 cows and bringing second cut silage area (harvested on 13th July) into the grazing rotation. After each grazing paddocks are receiving 120 kg/ha (50 kg/acre) of Goulding's Selenigrass (25% Nitrogen (N), 2% Magnesium (Mg), 0.002% Selenium (Se)). 5.6 ha of ground have been reseeded with late-heading grass varieties.

