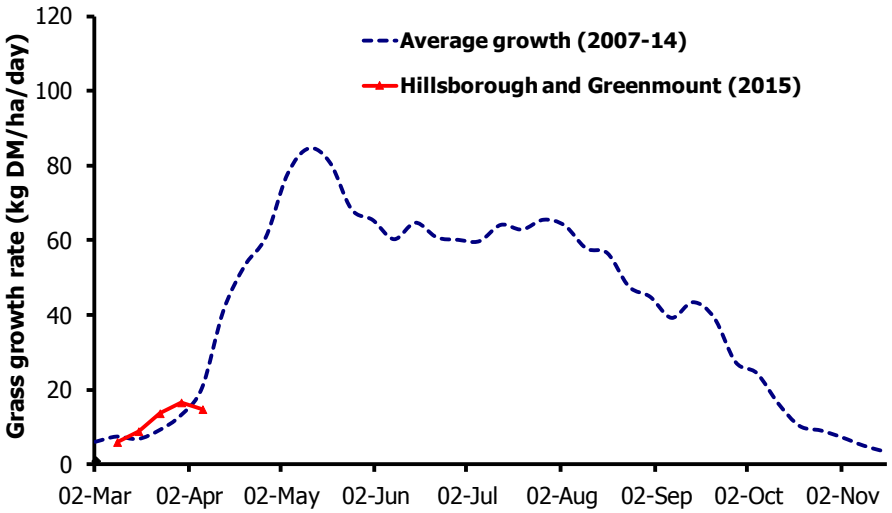
GrassCheck

Week beginning 6 April 2015

Grass Growth and Quality

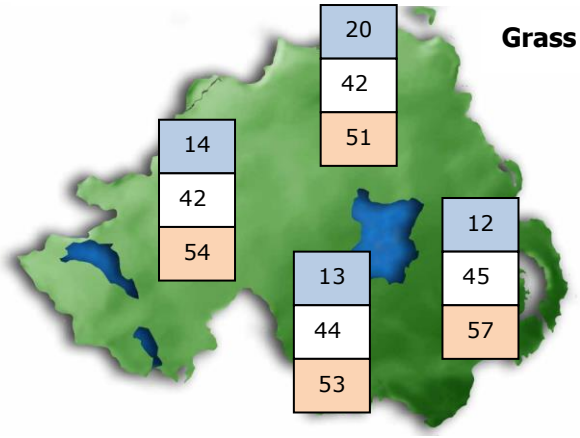


3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	17.7
Hillsborough	11.8
Downpatrick	9.0

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	18.1
ME (MJ/kg DM)	12.3
Crude protein (%)	25
Sugars (% DM)	11.1

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: Temperatures and ground conditions are well improved. Grass supply will change rapidly in these conditions. The aim must be to get the grazing platform grazed and in a rotation by mid to late April.

Grazing Management Focus

Michael McCaughey manages a herd of 108 New Zealand Friesian and Jersey cross-bred cows on his farm at Trillick in West Tyrone. The herd is compact spring calving. The main aim on the farm is to maximise milk from grazed grass within the constraints of the mixed land quality farmed. The herd has an average annual milk yield of 5,078 litres/cow from a concentrate input of 805 kg (3,289 litres/cow from forage).

Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,250 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	2,900 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	40 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	34 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

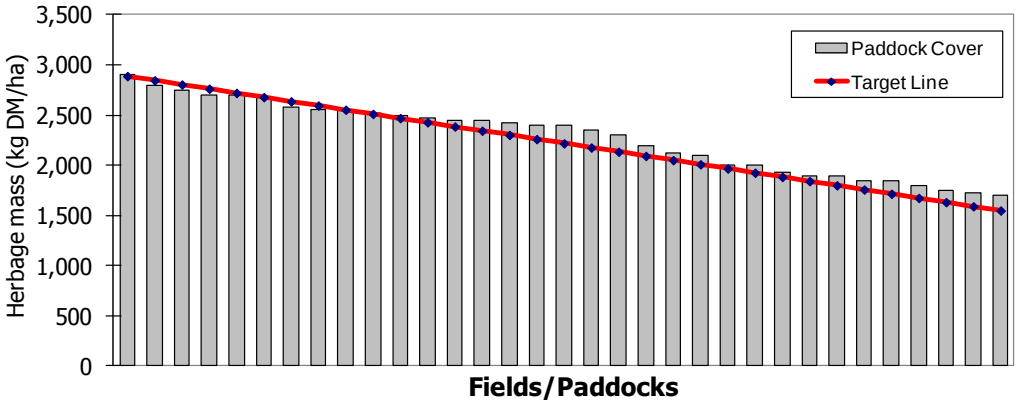
Stocking rate	2.79 cows/ha
Rotation length	40 days
Estimated grass intake	12 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,550 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	24.0 litres/cow/day, 4.26% BF, 3.23% PR
Concentrate feed level	4.0 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	15.1 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Calving started at the beginning of February with 75% of the herd calved within 6 weeks. Cows grazed by day from mid-February whenever ground conditions allowed. The herd was rehoused when ground conditions got very wet, most recently during late March. Grazed paddocks received 22m^3/ha (1,000 gallons/acre) of dilute slurry, and the whole farm is receiving 50 kg/ha (40 units/acre) of nitrogen this week, plus P and K as required based on soil analysis. The milking cows are now grazing full-time, with growth measured over the easter weekend at 40 kg DM/ha/day. Grass wedge and associated grass measurements obtained from AgriNet.



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