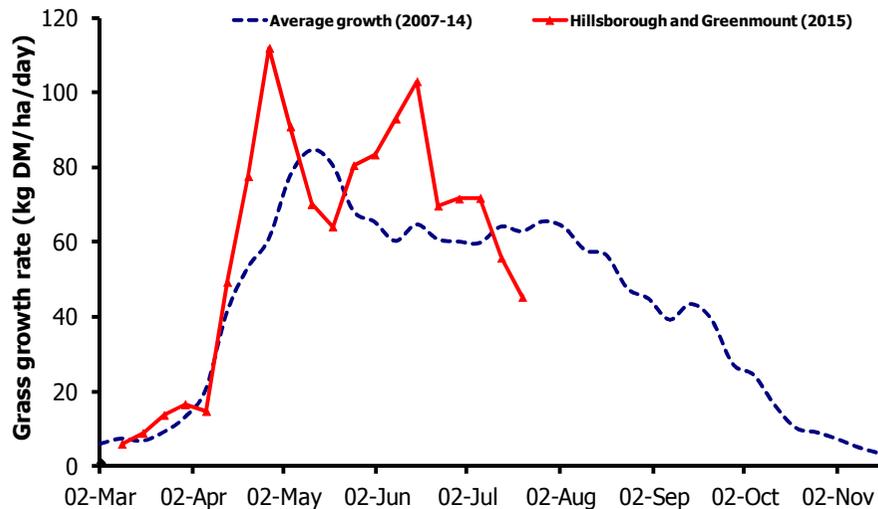


# GrassCheck

Week beginning 20 July 2015

## Grazing Management Focus

## Grass Growth and Quality



3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	46
Hillsborough	44
Downpatrick	18

\*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	16.3
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.9
Crude protein (%)	17.9
Sugars (% DM)	16.2

Frank and Colin Boggs manage a compact spring calving herd of 120 cows on their farm near Loughbrickland, Co. Down. Frank and Colin complete CAFRE Benchmarking with the herd currently averaging 6565 litres sold/cow/year at 4.12% butterfat and 3.48% protein from a concentrate input of 850 kg/cow equating to a milk from forage of 4676 litres/cow. Colin and Frank maintain that good performance results from driving grass growth, maintaining a quality leafy sward and getting cows out early.



### Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,550 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,770 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	86 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	55 kg DM/ha/day

### Grass wedge

Stocking rate	3.9 cows/ha
Rotation length	21 days
Estimated grass intake	14 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,700 kg DM/ha

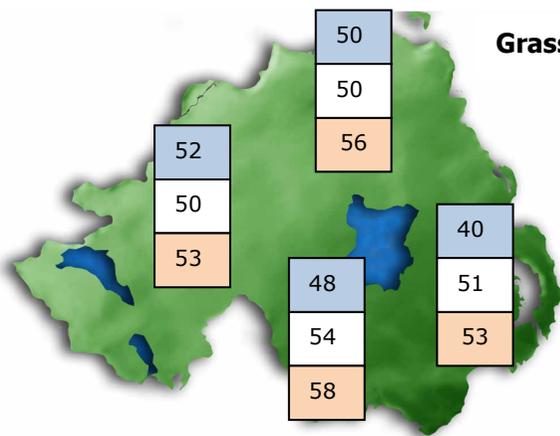
### Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	23.2 litres/cow/day, 4.12% BF, 3.48% PR
Concentrate feed level	1.5 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	19.9 litres/cow/day

### Management issues

Calving commenced in mid January and ended in mid April and currently 119 cows are in milk. The cows were initially turned out for a few hours by day from 14th March and night grazing commenced on the 5th April as weather and ground conditions permitted and grass became available. To date all grazing ground has received 50 kg N/ha post grazing with no slurry currently being applied to grazing ground. First cut silage was mown in the third week of May with second cut taken during the second week of July. The grass wedge is indicating a potential shortfall in grass supply in the coming days. This will be monitored closely and buffer feeding introduced if necessary to maintain dry matter intake while grass growth rate follows its seasonal downward trend.

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:** Cool and unsettled weather through mid-July has resulted in below average growth across all sites. Make sure grass covers are kept on target to ensure grass utilisation remains high.

