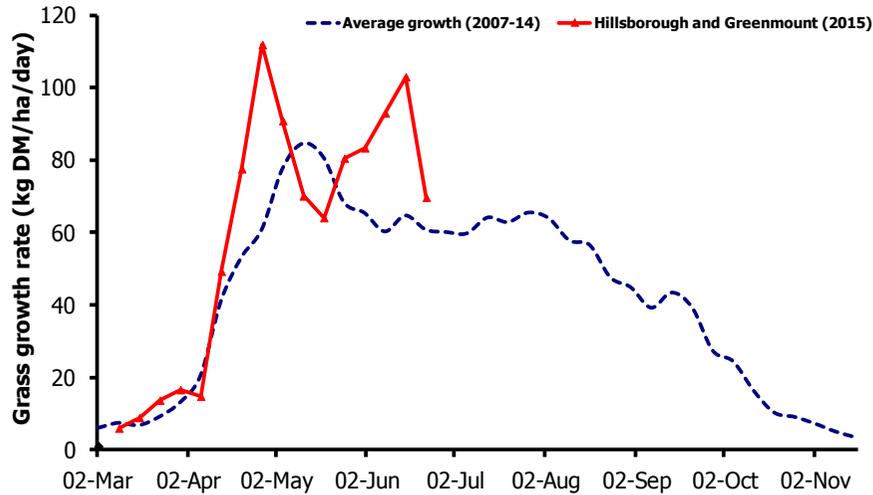


GrassCheck

Week beginning 22 June 2015

Grazing Management Focus

Grass Growth and Quality



3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	71
Hillsborough	68
Downpatrick	46

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	17
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.7
Crude protein (%)	17.5
Sugars (% DM)	15.9

Joe Cush manages a herd of 65 Holstein/Friesian cows on the outskirts of Pomeroy in Co. Tyrone. Joe completes CAFRE benchmarking with average results over the last 3 years showing 6770 litres milk sold/cow/year from a concentrate input of 1465 kg/cow and milk from forage of 3515 litres/cow. A considerable emphasis is placed on maximising milk from forage especially grass on this farm. The grazing area is easily accessible by a good network of farm roads.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,800 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,350 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	73 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	69 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	4.6 cows/ha
Rotation length	21 days
Estimated grass intake	14 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,600 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

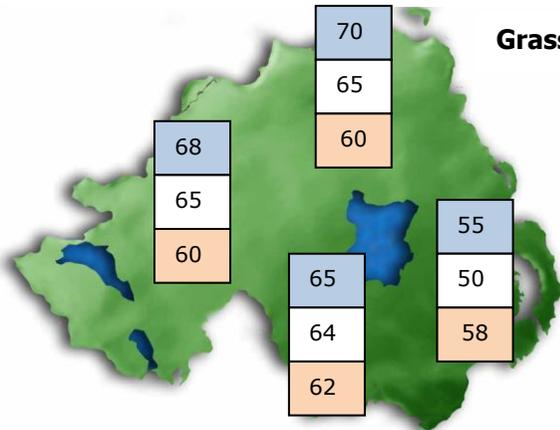
Milk yield and quality	28.1 litres/cow/day, 3.85% BF, 3.46% PR
Concentrate feed level	4.5 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	18 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Joe took advantage of the excellent weather conditions in 2014 and ploughed and reseeded 5.5 ha (14 acres) of the grazing area. Cows calve mainly from October to March and were turned out to grass for a couple of hours per day from 19 March and were full time grazing by 14 April. A combination of early turnout, tight spring grazing and reseeding has resulted in swards of quality grass capable of sustaining 15 + litres of milk/cow/day. To date 2.5 ha have been taken out of the rotation and round baled.

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: The dry weather is providing excellent grazing conditions. Monitor grass supplies closely as growth rates are varying widely between farms due to the effects of topping, paddocks being removed as silage and soil moisture.

