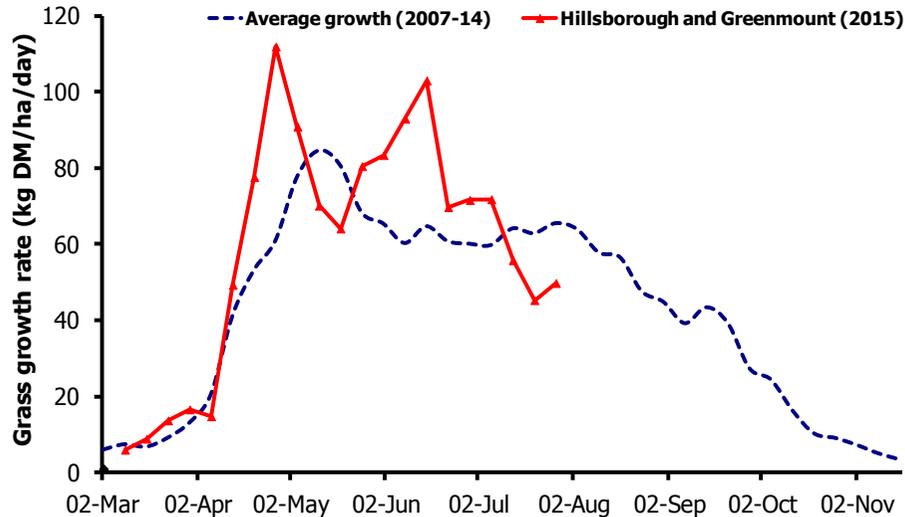


GrassCheck

Week beginning 27 July 2015

Grazing Management Focus

Grass Growth and Quality



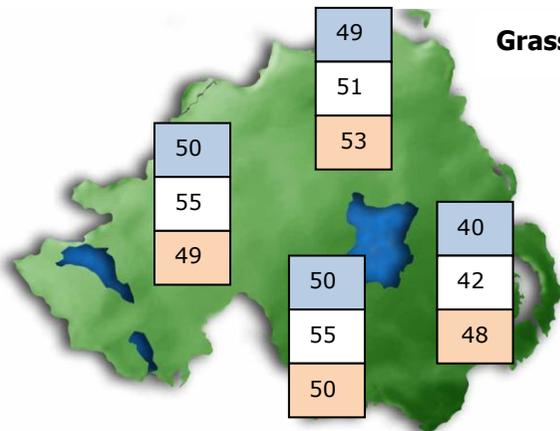
3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	50
Hillsborough	50
Downpatrick	36

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	16.2
ME (MJ/kg DM)	12.0
Crude protein (%)	17.4
Sugars (% DM)	16.2

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 continuing cool and very unsettled weather is affecting growth and grazing conditions in many areas, with growth at all sites remaining below the seasonal average.

Chris Catherwood is farm manager in an equity partnership with the Rankin Family at Crossnamuckley, near Newtownards. The 220 cow herd block calves in spring and places maximum emphasis on milk from grazed grass. 2014/15 CAFRE Benchmarking results for the farm show a yield of 7300 litres, feeding 1400kg of concentrates equating to 4200 litres of milk from forage. This excellent performance requires great attention to detail and a high standard of grassland management.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,295 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,010 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	69 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	52 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	3.2 cows/ha
Rotation length	21 days
Estimated grass intake	16 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,500 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	25.5 litres/cow/day, 3.99% BF, 3.41% PR
Concentrate feed level	3.0 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	18.8 litres/cow/day

Management issues

2nd cut silage was taken on 1st July, 3 weeks earlier than last year. This area is now within the grazing platform as would normally be the case but is available one rotation earlier thus explaining the surplus within the grass wedge. Paddocks will be baled if the surplus continues and covers exceed 3500kg DM/ha. However, Chris is reluctant to do this after August to ensure there is sufficient grass to extend the grazing season. Target entry cover is 2800 – 3000 kg DM/ha, exiting at 1500kg DM/ha. Grass quality remains very high with swards being pre mowed rather than topping aftermaths. 120kg/ha (50kg/acre) of Goulding's Selenigrass (25% N, 2% Mg, 0.002% Se) is currently being sown after grazing.

