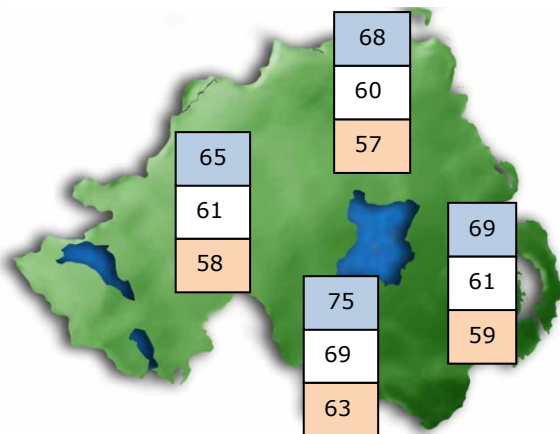


3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	76
Hillsborough	95
Average	85

* 270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	17
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.6
Crude protein (%)	20
Sugars (% DM)	15

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

Comment: Growth on the cut plots remains high. However, where grazing and fertiliser applications have been delayed, growth continues to struggle.

The Montgomery Bros (Kenneth and son Jonny pictured) manage their herd of 230 Holstein-Friesian cows outside Eglinton near Londonderry. They have a compact autumn calving herd with a strong focus on fertility, calving around 200 cows by Christmas each year. Benchmarked production is 8,039 litres/cow/year from 2,140 kg of concentrate per cow. This equates to 3,285 litres of milk from forage.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	3,000 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,800 kg DM/ha
7-day grass growth	59 kg DM/ha/day (based on farm cover)
Herd grass demand	57 kg DM/ha/day

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	25.4 litres/cow/day, 3.86% BF, 3.17% PR
Milk from forage	10.9 litres/cow/day
Concentrate feed level	6.5 kg/cow/day

Management issues

The cows first went to grass by day on 18th April but have only been out full time since 21st May due to the poor ground conditions. To get grass into the diet the Montgomery's varied the length of time cows grazed according to both weather and ground conditions hoping to avoid poaching damage, making use of the extensive network of paddocks and farm lanes. The first round of grazing was completed on 18th May, around 3 weeks later than usual.

When in for the evening milking, cows are being buffer fed silage with 6.5 kg concentrates per head since the rapid exit parlour does not have feeders. However, they are currently installing parlour feeders to enable feed to yield and avoid the need for buffer feeding while at grass.

All the paddocks received 34 m³/ha (3,000 gallons/acre) of slurry in late February/early March, avoiding the need for further P or K applications. They also received an application of anhydrous liquid ammonia by shallow injection in early March. Since this is a slow release fertiliser it will avoid the need for any further fertiliser applications for the remainder of the grazing season.

First cut of the 100 ha of silage ground got underway on Tuesday 28th

Grass Growth and Quality

Grazing Management Focus