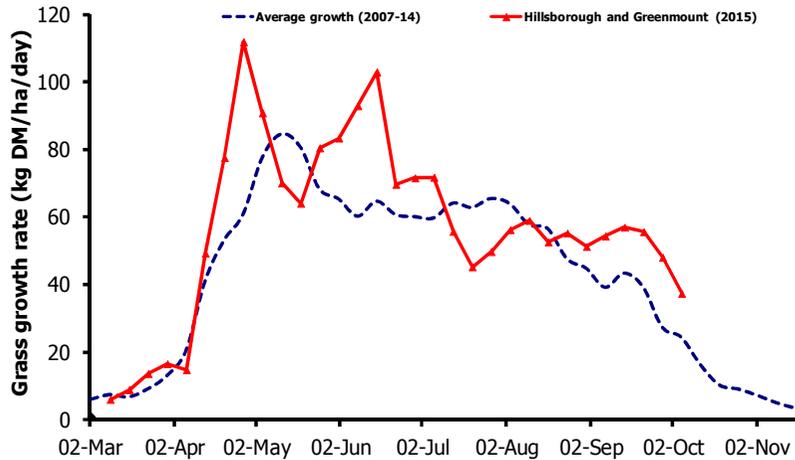


GrassCheck

Week beginning 5 Oct 2015

Grazing Management Focus

Grass Growth and Quality



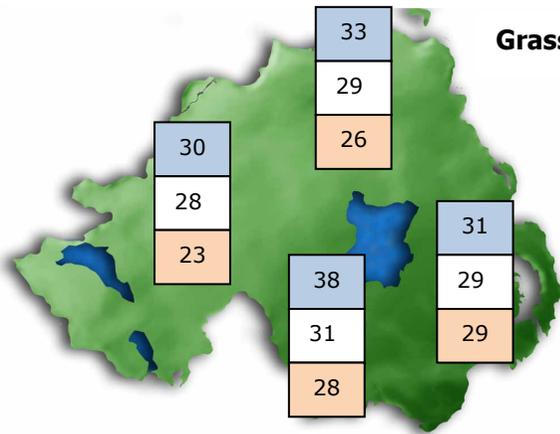
3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	33
Hillsborough	42
Downpatrick	26

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	13.9
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.8
Crude protein (%)	21.8
Sugars (% DM)	11.9

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: Grass supply and ground conditions are generally good on many farms, but now it's all about spring 2016. The paddocks to be grazed first in spring should now be grazed out cleanly and not regrazed. Aim to get two thirds of grazing area grazed and closed up before end of October.

Denis and James Minford manage a herd of 200 pedigree Holstein cows at Crumlin. Rolling herd performance is 8,350 l/cow from 2.6 t of concentrate with a milk from forage of 2570 l/cow. Recent milk quality is 4.16% butterfat and 3.30% protein. Calving has started with 42 cows/heifers calved in September with fresh calves and high yielding (>28 l/cow) spring calves housed at night. All of the herd continue to graze by day with an average yield of 22.5 l/cow.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,250 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,400 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	36 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	46 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	3.5 cows/ha
Rotation length	35 days
Estimated grass intake	13 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,800 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	22.5 litres/cow/day, 4.16% BF, 3.30% PR
Concentrate feed level	4.4 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	12.7 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Grass growth in recent weeks has been excellent although the colder nights and heavy dew last week has slowed growth. Sward quality is good for the time of year due to management earlier in the season e.g. round baling excess grass, pre/post topping etc. The last fertiliser application was on 10th September and there is sufficient grass to last until the end of October, ground and weather conditions permitting. Grassland management is being improved by using weekly grass measurements and an on-line decision support tool.

