

Week beginning 8th July 2024





AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

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College of Agriculture,

Food & Rural Enterprise

MANAGEMENT NOTES:

- Grass plot growth has held higher than forecast in the past week but there is a lot of variation in growth rates across the province, in part due to differences in soil moisture
- Supplement feeding has been required for some farms for several weeks now and for others it hasn't stopped all year. Measure the platform regularly to monitor how much supplement to offer and when it can be reduced/removed as you climb out of a deficit.
- Prolonged reduced growth rates over traditionally the higher growing weeks of the year has meant significant forage supplies have been fed, or reduced amounts of grass have been harvested and ensiled. It is important to carry out a fodder budget for the winter now, while there is still time in the season for decisions to be made.
- Keep fertiliser applications up to date in line with a nutrient management plan. Nitrogen utilisation will be higher in July and early August than later in the season.

| Value of Grass | | Grass Quality | |
|--|------|---------------|------|
| Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day) * | 18.4 | DM (%) | 16.0 |
| Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day) ** | 1.01 | ME (MJ/kg DM) | 11.4 |
| *M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk | | CP (% DM) | 15.4 |
| **Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain | | WSC (% DM) | 12.8 |





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