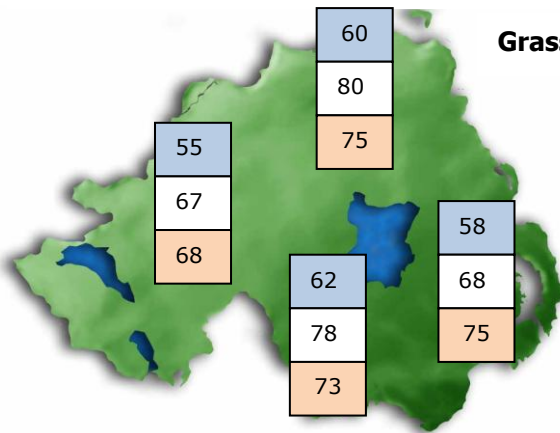


3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	89.9
Hillsborough	65.3
Downpatrick	39.5

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	16.8
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.9
Crude protein (%)	21
Sugars (% DM)	14.9

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: Growth is now well above average in many places. A focus on managing grass supply and keeping grass covers on target is critical to ensure high quality grass is available over the coming weeks.

Pat Lavery manages a herd of 90 Holstein-Friesian cows at Portadown. Rolling performance is 8,130 litres/cow from 2.3t of concentrates with 2,987 litres from forage. Pat uses strip grazing to maximise grass intakes ensuring that the cows maintain milk yield and quality. Covers above 3,800 kg DM per ha are baled for silage. Field layout facilitates alternate grazing / cutting on much of the area ensuring a clean sward is available during the year.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,810 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,550 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	56 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	64 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

Stocking rate	4.2 cows/ha
Rotation length	24 days
Estimated grass intake	15 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,970 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	28.6 litres/cow/day, 3.81% BF, 3.25% PR
Concentrate feed level	6.5 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	14.2 litres/cow/day

Management issues

In March 125 kg/ha of urea was applied on the grazing area. The herd went to grass for day time grazing from 6th April and were fed bale silage and 2.5 kg of blend at evening milking. Concentrates were fed in the parlour and high yielding cows also had access to an out of parlour feeder. Cows went to grass fulltime on 13th April with fields for grazing selected on the basis of grass cover and ground conditions. There are 10 cows in the herd yielding over 40 litres per day. Currently all concentrates are allocated in the milking parlour at a setting of M+15 litres and 0.45 kg of concentrate per litre above this with a maximum of 14kg. This will be reset at the end of April to M+20 litres. As the average cover across the farm is above target the paddock with the heaviest cover will not be grazed and cut out as bales.

