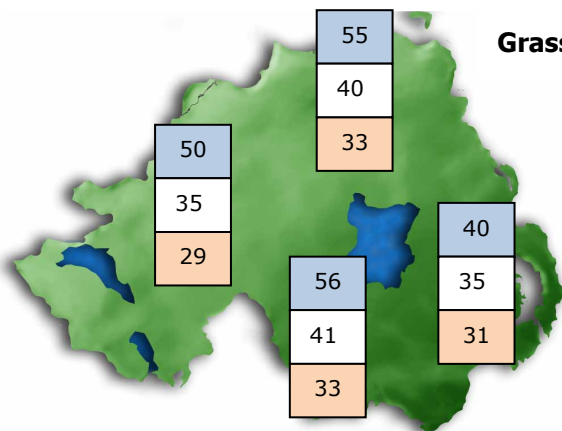


3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*	
Greenmount	55
Hillsborough	56
Downpatrick	33

*270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	13.9
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.9
Crude protein (%)	20.5
Sugars (% DM)	13.5

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: Although growth continues well above the seasonal average, heavy showers have made for challenging grazing conditions again in many areas. Allocate grass carefully to ensure grass intakes are maintained and sward damage is minimised.

David and Richard Lyle (pictured) manage 50 British Friesian x Holstein cows on their LFA farm near Draperstown. The herd is winter milk producing with calving commencing in mid October. Benchmark production in 2014-15 was 5,550 litres/cow/year at 3.83% butterfat and 3.21% protein. Concentrate usage was 1.15 tonnes/cow/year with annual milk from forage production of almost 3,000 litres per cow.



Grass supply

Average farm cover	2,610 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,500 kg DM/ha
Current grass growth	42 kg DM/ha/day
Herd grass demand	35 kg DM/ha/day

Grass wedge

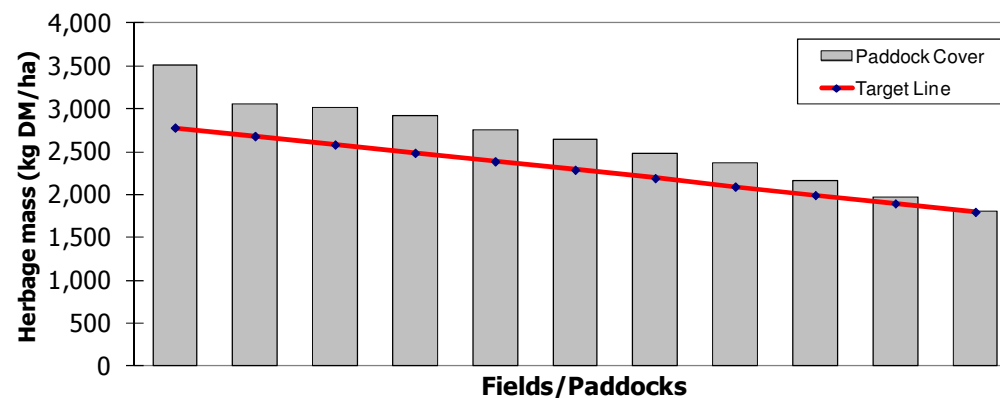
Stocking rate	2.2 cows/ha
Rotation length	30 days
Estimated grass intake	15 kg DM/cow/day
Post-grazing target	1,800 kg DM/ha

Cow performance

Milk yield and quality	19.5 litres/cow/day, 3.97% BF, 3.54% PR
Concentrate feed level	3.0 kg/cow/day
Milk from forage	12.8 litres/cow/day

Management issues

Given their location, the Lyles have developed a low cost production system of Friesian x Holstein cows to take the most from grazed grass. Cows are managed as one group all year round and are fed to yield in the parlour. A farm lane allows access to most grazing fields where cows are strip grazed. Since the second cut silage was taken on 14 August an additional 7 ha has been added to the grazing block. Cows are still grazing full time and 7 cows have been dried off due for calving in October. The aim is to keep cows out as long as possible, but this is dependent on weather conditions and grass availability.



Grass Growth and Quality

Grazing Management Focus