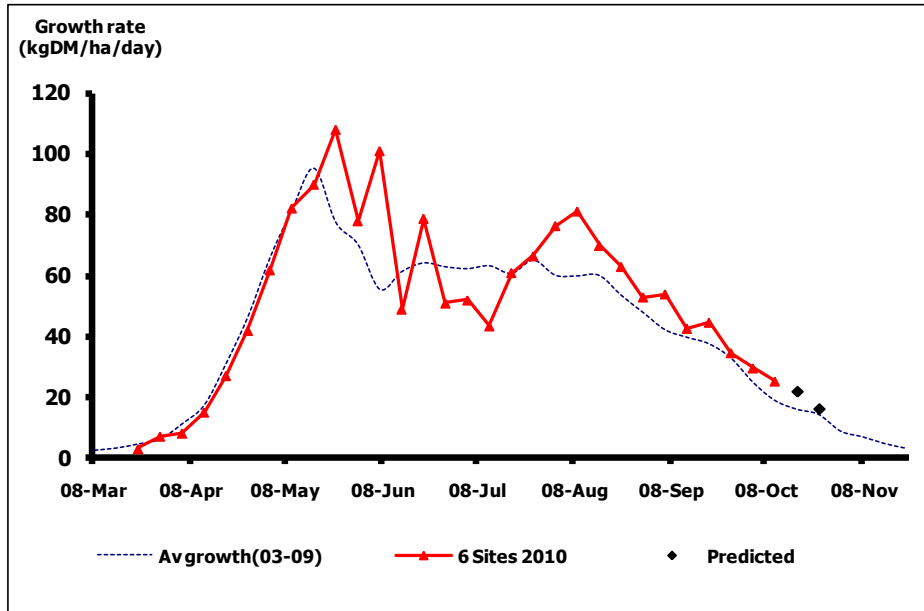


Grass Growth and Quality

GrassCheck

Week beginning 11 October

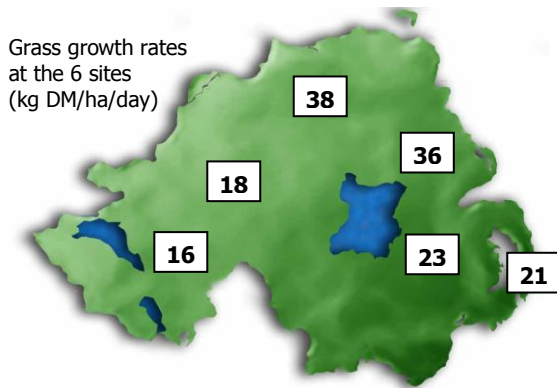
Grazing Management Focus



3-week Grass Growth (kg DM/ha/day)*		
Current	11 Oct	25
Predicted	18 Oct	22
	25 Oct	16

* 270 kg N/ha/year applied

Grass Quality	
Dry matter (%)	15
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.7
Crude protein (% DM)	22
Sugars (% DM)	11



- Grass growth continues to fall, with the dry weather over the past week improving ground conditions in most areas.
- There is currently an excellent opportunity to graze out swards cleanly before closing for the winter.
- Do not be tempted to re-graze closed fields over the next month. This may provide a few extra days grazing now, but will severely reduce the ability to get cows out early in the spring.
- This is the final bulletin for 2010.

Patrick Lennon manages his block calving spring herd near Portaferry. He has a grazing platform of 56 hectares on which he manages 109 cows of New Zealand Friesian and Jersey crossbred genetics. The farm is managed with the assistance of one part-time workman.



Grass supply

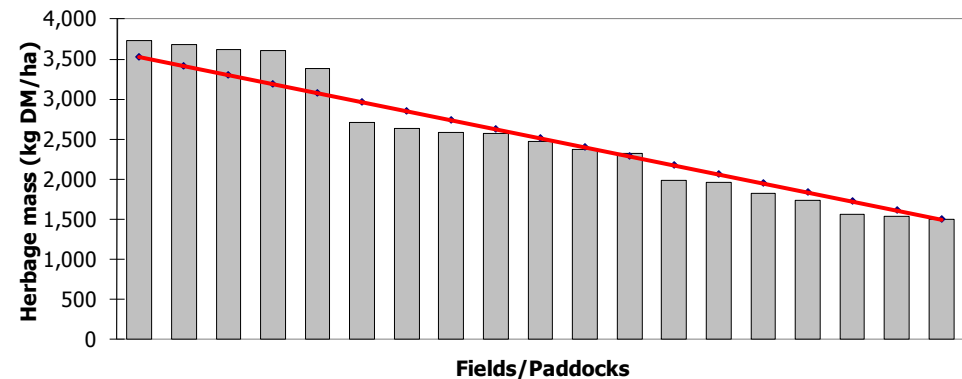
Average farm cover	2,500 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing cover	3,700 kg DM/ha
Pre-grazing ME	11.6 MJ/kg DM
Pre-grazing crude protein	20.5 % DM
7-day grass growth	35 kg DM/ha/day (based on farm cover)
Herd grass demand	39 kg DM/ha/day

Cow performance

Average daily milk yield	17.0 litres/cow/day
Milk from forage	12.6 litres/cow/day
Concentrate feed level	2.0 kg/cow/day
Milk fat content	5.17 %
Milk protein content	4.01 %

Management issues

There is currently adequate grass across the farm. Excellent ground conditions are allowing swards to be tightly grazed during this final rotation. The fields due for grazing first in spring were grazed at the start of October, and the target is to have 60% of the grazing area grazed and closed for spring by the end of October. The cows will remain grazing fulltime until the end of October, and they will then be grazed by day only through until the end of November.



Target line in wedge reflects a pre-grazing target of 3,500 kg DM/ha and a post-grazing target of 1,500 kg DM/ha. This is the quantity of grass required given a stocking rate of 2.6 cows/ha (106 cows grazing 41 ha), a rotation length of 52 days, and cows eating 15 kg grass DM/day.