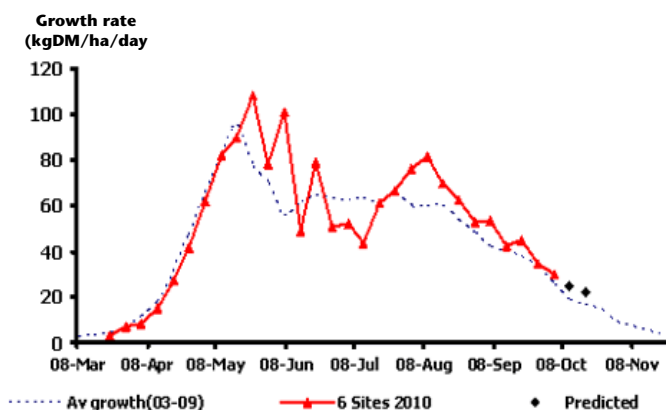


## No 153: Milk Yield from Grazing 2011

### Milk from Grazing 2011

Turnout in most areas has been early this year following the driest March for over 50 years. UK average rainfall was less than 50% than the long-term average. April has also been a dry month. To this point grass cover and growth rate is good. Data from Northern Ireland (Source: AFBINI) shows an average daily growth rate of approximately 40kgDM/ha/day in late April. This year grass growth is already at 70kgDM/ha/day (Source : AFBINI).



The FWTNI Milk Yield from Grazing service is now running with participants receiving not only the individual farm result but also the averaged weekly results including nutrient analyses, predicted dry matter intake and milk yield and milk quality alerts. Data from the week to 15<sup>th</sup> April are given in the table, which shows the average milk yield prediction from grazing was M+7.1 litres. This is typical for the equivalent week in years 2006 to 2009 (average M+7.9 litres) but 6.8 litres below the peak equivalent of 2005 yet 4.4 litres above last year. This clearly demonstrates the variation between years.

More importantly, the spread of potential milk yield from grazing of some 24.5 litres in the table shows how important it is to monitor each individual farm on an ongoing basis. After all, who would formulate winter rations without knowledge of silage quality and intake?

Week	11 - 15 April 2011		
	Av	Min	Max
Dry Matter (%)	17.7	12.1	25.4
ME (MJ/kgDM)	12.6	11.9	13.4
Crude Protein (%)	27.1	20.4	35.3
NDF (%)	37.4	30.9	47.7
Sugars (% DM)	8.2	3.0	12.6
DM Intake	9.2	4.7	14.2
FM Intake	52.8	24.1	87.1
Milk Yield	7.1	-3.9	20.6

Of course, it is not realistic to use the FWTNI laboratory service on all farms. 'Dial-a-Yield' has been developed for this purpose, based on the practical application of research from over more than 10 years.

#### Dial-a-Yield

This tool enables a quick and accurate prediction of potential milk yield from grazing on each farm. Constant values such as ME (by month) are built into the background calculations whilst the key variables, grass dry matter, intake per bite and daylight hours at grazing are used for individual yield prediction. Simply, it accounts for the significant impact of different management practices such as housing, buffer feeding and milking time on milk from grass.

## No 153: Milk Yield from Grazing 2011

Using the laboratory (or a microwave method) to measure dry matter % and 'Dial-a-Yield', in conjunction with the Grazing Monitor Check sheet, enables accurate prediction of the value of grazing on every dairy unit. Strategic supplementary feeding can then be used to accurately achieve the target milk yield.

### Monitor summer performance

On an ongoing basis through the summer it is worthwhile checking predicted performance against that actually being achieved on the farm. The FWTNI Grazing Reality Check (see Urgent News No.138) has proved to be a very useful tool in identifying where cows at grass are either over or underfed, be it with buffer feed and/or concentrates. With this simple tool in conjunction with 'Dial-a-Yield' it is possible to manipulate the summer feeding programme to maximise feed efficiency whilst achieving target performance. Critically this individual farm approach helps to reduce the incidence of poor performance associated with fat or thin cows at housing in the autumn.

For more information on the range of tools available to help optimise dairy cow performance at grass contact the Frank Wright Trow technical department on 01335 341102.

Receive these technical publications directly via e-mail link. Contact Sarah Brandrick to register your interest on 01335 341128 or at [sarah.brandrick@frankwright.com](mailto:sarah.brandrick@frankwright.com). You can also access this and past CONTACT and URGENT NEWS publications by registering on our website: [www.frankwrighttrouw.com](http://www.frankwrighttrouw.com)

### FWTNI Dial-A-Yield

