

BETTER Farm Update

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The 8 lowland flocks have all completed their round of 7 week weighing. Despite difficult conditions experienced at times this spring, lamb performance overall has held up well this season. There have been gains for individual flocks with improving on 2014 performance to date. A summary of the overall performance is presented in Table 1. These weights are adjusted for age. The flocks will be targeting weaning from late July onward.

Table 1. Lamb performance on the lowland flocks from birth to 7 weeks

Birth type	Growth rate (g/day)		7 week weight (kg)	
	Average	Range	Average	Range
single	373	316 to 421	24.3	20.6 to 26.5
twin	314	290 to 345	20.7	18.7 to 22.5
triplet	305	289 to 321	19.6	18.2 to 21.3

Grass growth rates on the farms has been variable during May with a trend for slower growth on the more northerly/western farms. The average grass growth rates on the farms is displayed in Figure 1. Each of the farms are applying their fertilizer either in the form of compound or CAN to boost growth during May. Grass demand on the farms is increasing and currently ranges from 32 to 56 kg/DM/ha/day. Reseeded on a number of the farms have been slow to establish, the cold conditions during early may have hampered this, with improvements seen in the latter half of the month these should be ready in time for weaning

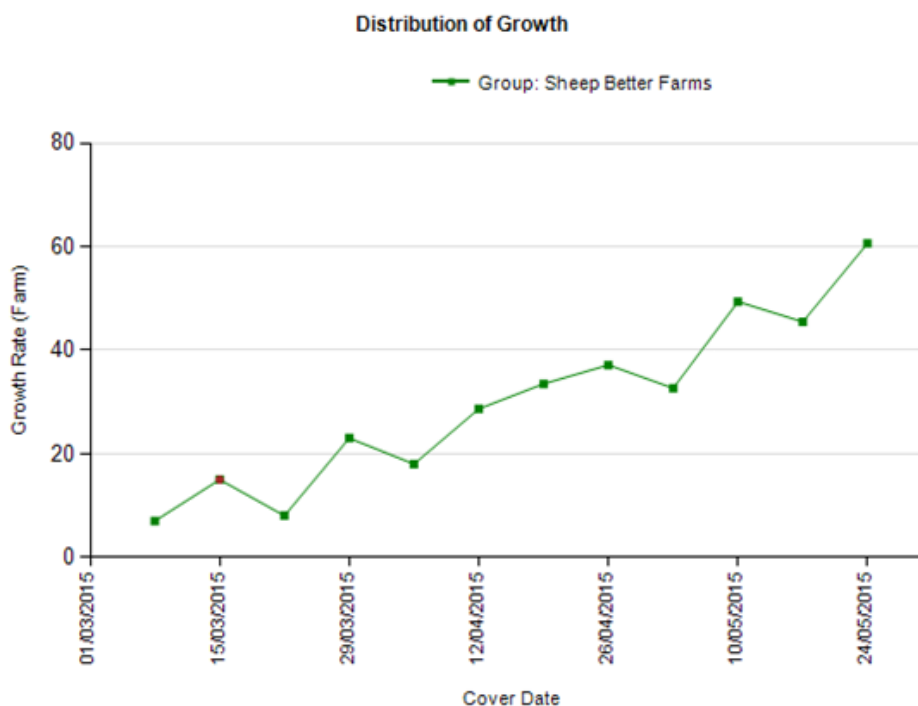


Figure 1. Grass growth rates on the lowland flocks