

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 13/11/2017

General details

Fifteen animals, 12 heifers and 3 steers, were drafted for slaughter this week and were the first animals drafted from the shed following housing on the 29th of October. Average live-weight (LW) of these animals at slaughter was 598kg and 689kg for heifers and steers, respectively. The resulting carcasses from these animals were 335kg U-3- (heifers) and 391kg R+3= (steers). A summary of slaughter performance to date is presented in Table 1. Heifers and steers were turned out to grass on the 10th March and were offered fresh grass every 3-4 days in a rotational paddock grazing system. Concentrate supplementation was offered from the 1st of September and gradually increased to 4kg/head/day with the aim to finish these animals from grass. While 28 heifers and 12 steers were slaughtered from grass, the remaining animals entered the shed on the 29th of October where they were then offered 1st-cut silage (70% DMD) and 6kg concentrates per head per day. There are 10 animals remaining (5 heifers and 5 steers) in the shed with the aim to have these drafted for slaughter over the coming weeks. We are extremely happy with the slaughter performance of the steers, in particular the late-maturing steers. Late-maturing steers were on average, 708kg LW at slaughter at 610 days of age (20 months). The target LW at slaughter for steers according to the Teagasc blue-print is 700kg, at 720 days (24 months).

	No	Age (days)	ADG birth – slaughter	LW (kg)	KO%	CW (kg)	Conf.	Fat
EM heifers	21	573	0.94	578	53	308	R=	4=
LM heifers	19	602	0.92	601	56	334	R+	3-
EM steers	10	598	1.00	651	54	354	R-	3+
LM steers	5	610	1.10	708	57	404	U-	3-

Table 1.

Last Friday and Saturday saw 12mm of rain-fall recorded in Grange and resulted in the completion of grazing 2017 this week. Despite another ~7 days at grass remaining, the decision was made to house these animals as the negatives of remaining at grass e.g. poaching of paddocks out-weighed the positives of continuing grazing. Average farm cover is on target with a closing cover of 550 kgDM/ha. All weanlings were clipped (back and tail) at housing.

Weekly planner

- Purchase products for worm control
- Source LMxFR replacement heifers
- Check ground conditions for possible Potash spreading

****The next update it will be sent when the remaining beef animals are slaughtered****



Picture 1. Limousin heifer prior to slaughter that resulted in a 308kg U=2= carcass



Picture 2. Limousin heifer prior to slaughter that resulted in a 376kg U+2+ carcass



Picture 3. Angus steer prior to slaughter that resulted in a 379kg R+4- carcass



Picture 4. Weanlings clipped ahead of housing