

# Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 16/10/2017

## General details

As we are all well aware, storm Ophelia caused havoc in many areas around the country. Thankfully, there is no major damage in Grange to report following this weather event. However, there was a power outage resulting in no electric current to the paddock fences for a couple of days. No electric current in the paddock fences within a couple of days of weaning is less than ideal and resulted in some calves leaving their paddocks heading for the sheds where the cow herd is housed. Power has since been restored and the calves that were weaned last week have settled well. Weaning of the last group of calves was carried out on Wednesday of this week (when power was restored) and these calves have yet to settle. Weaning weights will be provided next week.

In order to ensure 60% of the farm is grazed by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November, to have grass on the farm in early spring, the target is to graze ~13% of this farm each week (Oct 4<sup>th</sup> - Nov 7<sup>th</sup>). Despite the reduced grass demand on farm last week due to the housing of some cows for weaning, 19% of the farm was grazed. The target was exceeded as a result of grazing some priority paddocks (paddocks highlighted for early spring turn-out) and drier paddocks that had low grass covers. For the week ahead, grass demand has reduced even further as all cows are housed and should see a smaller % of the farm grazed, weather permitting. Ground conditions have deteriorated dramatically over the last week. In total, 30mm of rain fell over the last 7 days and has resulted in waterlogging in the majority of paddocks. Achieving our autumn grassland targets will be extremely challenging.

This week, 9 cull cows were slaughtered, from grass, following weaning and their slaughter performance is presented in Table 1. In total, 9 cows were slaughtered and were in the herd for between 3 and 9 years. These 9 cows produced in excess of 10,000kg of beef while on farm, not including their own slaughter data. One of the best cows in the herd, sired by the Limousin bull Rocky, was culled due to persistent lameness. This cow was 9 years old, first calved at 23 months, produced 7 calves and had an average calving interval of 365 days. Over the course of her lifetime, she produced 2,600kg of beef not including her slaughter data. At slaughter, she weighed 860kg and left a carcass of 467kg.

Cull cows	Live-weight (kg)	Conformation	Fat	KO%	Carcass-weight (kg)	€/kg
n=9	788	R=	3=	51	402	3.50

Table 1

## Grassland management

- Farm cover: 721kg DM/ha
- Growth: 43 kgDM/ha/day
- Demand: 12 kgDM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 21
- Percentage of farm closed: 33%



Picture 1. Calves at grass prior to weaning the final group



Picture 2. Bull calves content at grass following weaning



Picture 3. Cows housed following weaning



Picture 4. Cows will be penned according to body condition