

Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 25/09/2017

General details

All calves were weighed this week and their performance is presented in Table 1 and 2. Current average daily gain (ADG) from birth for both heifer and bull calves is 0.1 kg behind this time last year. There are currently 45 Limousin and Angus sired cows born to Friesian dams (BF) and 55 Limousin and Simmental sired cows born to Limousin and Simmental dams (Beef ×). Calf performance, as categorised by cow breed-type, is presented in Table 2. Live-weight (LW) is greater for calves from Beef × than BF dams, however, ADG is the same between both groups and the difference in LW is due to the younger Beef × calves.

(kg)	BW	LW	ADG
Heifers	41	260	1.1
Bulls	45	280	1.2

Table 1. Calf performance by sex 28/09/2017

Cow breed-type	Cow LW (kg)	Calf DOB	Calf BW (kg)	Calf LW (kg)	Calf ADG (kg)
BF	617	22/03/2017	41	260	1.2
Beef ×	735	10/03/2017	44	276	1.2

Table 2. Calf performance by cow breed-type 28/09/2017

Beef heifers and steers were weighed and body condition scored (BCS) this week in order to draft for slaughter. Early-maturing (Angus - EM) heifers had a greater BCS than the late-maturing (Limousin/Charolais - LM) heifers, as expected. Following 4 weeks of concentrate supplementation at pasture, at a rate of 3.5kg/head/day, 1 LM and 11 EM heifers were drafted for slaughter. Heifers were on average, 19 months of age and 584kg LW at slaughter resulting in a 305kg R=4+ carcass. Heifers were over-fat on drafting so the fat score of 4+ while disappointing, was not surprising. The majority of the remaining heifers will be drafted for slaughter next week while the steers require more feeding ahead of slaughter. Four out of 7 teaser bulls were also slaughtered, resulting in a 473kg O-3= from pasture without receiving any concentrate supplementation ahead of slaughter.

Grassland management

- Farm cover: 900kg DM/ha
- Growth: 48 kgDM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 42 kgDM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 25
- Rotation length: 38 days

Weekly planner

- Castrate all male calves
- Weigh, BCS and draft beef heifers for slaughter



Picture 1. Typical grazing conditions and grass utilisation this week



Picture 2. This heifer (584kg LW) had a 305kg R=4- carcass post slaughter



Picture 3. Heifers to be drafted for slaughter next week



Picture 4. Steers were on average 644 kg when weighed this week