

# Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 30/10/2017

## General details

As mentioned in last week's notes, 7 steers and 2 heifers were drafted for slaughter. Of the 7 steers, 4 were early- (Angus; **EM**) and 3 were late- maturing (Charolais; **LM**). EM steers were 614kg the morning of slaughter; kill-out was 53.5% and resulted in, on average, a 329kg O+3+ carcass. LM steers were 723kg the morning of slaughter; kill-out was 56.6% and resulted in, on average, a 409kg U-3- carcass. The two heifers that were slaughtered were 594kg (LM) and 622kg (EM) the morning of slaughter and resulted in a 323kg R=4= (54% KO) and 329kg R-4= (53% KO) carcass, respectively. Both steers and heifers were 20 months of age at slaughter and received 5kg/head/day of a barley based concentrate at grass for the last 8 weeks prior to slaughter. A summary of slaughter performance to date is presented in Table 1. Important to note, \*\* more animals to be slaughtered and may change the below figures \*\*.

	No	Age (days)	ADG birth – slaughter	LW (kg)	KO%	CW (kg)	Conf.	Fat
<b>EM heifers</b>	20	570	0.94	577	53	307	R=	4=
<b>LM heifers</b>	8	585	0.96	606	55	331	R+	3=
<b>EM steers</b>	9	593	1.00	646	54	352	R-	3+
<b>LM steers</b>	3	599	1.11	723	57	409	U-	3-

Table 1.

Using the autumn grazing planner, our target was to have 60% of the farm grazed and closed by the end of the first week of November. As the first week of November comes to an end, we have exceeded this target. A high closing farm cover last autumn, a mild winter and a weather related delayed turnout, resulted in an excess grass supply and subsequently, pre-grazing covers >2,500 kgDM/ha, last spring. The consequence of this, the completion of our first rotation was delayed and didn't finish until late April and grass utilisation was poor. While not in control of the weather, closing too much of the farm too early may result in a high closing cover and potentially lead to the same issue experienced last spring. Therefore, while maintaining 60% of the farm closed, we are going to graze any paddocks that have experienced good growth since early October or may not have been grazed-out appropriately during the periods of heavy rainfall.

## Grassland management

- Farm cover: 783 kgDM/ha
- Growth: 26 kgDM/ha/day
- Demand: 27 kgDM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 25
- Percentage of farm closed: 60%



Picture 1. FWO sired steer slaughtered to 409kg R+2+ carcass at 20 months



Picture 2. Hoof trimming of 12 cows took place this week