

## Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 12/06/2017

### General details

The first of our 16 months bulls (n=12) were slaughtered at the end of last week and their performance figures are presented in tables 1 and 2 below. Carcass weight for this group is 15kg ahead of the first group slaughtered (n=11) in 2016, with the same management, so we are happy with performance. According to the Teagasc beef production system guidelines, bulls need to achieve a lifetime gain of 1.35kg/day from birth to slaughter in order to achieve a carcass of 380-420kg at 16 months and this group of bulls did just that.

Bulls were housed for a total of 209 days and were gradually offered 5kg/head/day of a barley based concentrate for the first 73 days before consuming the same concentrate *ad-libitum* for the remaining 136 days. As expected the Chaolais (CH)/Limousin (LM) bulls in numerical terms, had greater confirmation, lower fat score, a higher KO% and subsequently a higher carcass weight than Angus (AA) bulls at slaughter. Guidelines for 16 month bull beef production may be found on the Teagasc website and through the link below.

[https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2015/109311\\_BeefProdSystemGuide\\_FactSheets\\_01\\_a.pdf](https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2015/109311_BeefProdSystemGuide_FactSheets_01_a.pdf)

	Number	Age	Live-weight	Confirmation	Fat	Carcass	KO%	Euro/kg
All	12	16M	705kg	R+	3=	401kg	57%	€4.35
AA	7	472d	709kg	R=	3+	394kg	56%	€4.30
CH/LM	5	472d	701kg	U-	2+	411kg	59%	€4.40

**Table 1. 16 month bull slaughter data**

ADG	Birth to slaughter	Housing to slaughter	Ad-lib to slaughter
All	1.40kg	1.49kg	1.80kg
AA	1.41kg	1.43kg	1.76kg
CH/LM	1.38kg	1.55kg	1.84kg

**Table 2. 16 month bull performance data**

### Breeding

- Start date: 01/05/17
- 1 teaser bull with chin-ball per 25 cows
- AM:PM rule to be followed for AI
- 100% AI to be carried out
- 94% submitted for AI first 46 days
- Animals yet to be served are all 1<sup>st</sup> calvers

### Grassland management

- Farm cover: 775 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 65 kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 13
- 3 acres were removed from the grazing area that had gone too strong from grazing
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre) non-clover swards, 0:7:30 (2 bags/acre) clover swards