

## Derrypatrick Farm Notes week beginning 10/07/2017

### General details

Our final group of bulls were slaughtered this week as they reached 16 months of age and final performance data is presented in Table 1. Despite being numerically lighter at birth, early-maturing (EM) Angus bulls were 23kg heavier at weaning. Previous research in Grange has shown that any difference in weaning-weight remains until slaughter and this was with our 16 month bulls in favour of the EM animals. However, as expected, the late-maturing (LM) CH/LIM bulls had a better conformation score and a greater kill-out percentage (KO%) and therefore, a greater carcass weight. A major stumbling block reported among many farmers in the slaughter of LM young bulls, is fat score

| Table 1.              | EM    | LM    | EM v. LM |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Number                | 11    | 9     | -        |
| Birth-weight          | 44    | 53    | -9kg     |
| Weaning-Weight (kg)   | 375   | 352   | +23kg    |
| Housing-Weight (kg)   | 385   | 360   | +25kg    |
| Ad-lib-Weight (kg)    | 445   | 426   | +19kg    |
| Slaughter-Weight (kg) | 703   | 682   | +21kg    |
| Carcass-Weight (kg)   | 395   | 403   | -8kg     |
| KO%                   | 56%   | 59%   | -3%      |
| Conformation Score    | R+    | U-    | -        |
| Fat Score             | 3=    | 2+    | -        |
| €/kg                  | €4.30 | €4.34 | -€0.04   |
| ADG (kg/day)          |       |       |          |
| Birth-Weaning         | 1.40  | 1.30  | +0.1     |
| Housing-Slaughter     | 1.41  | 1.41  | 0        |
| Lifetime              | 1.39  | 1.34  | +0.05    |

and is evident in the 2+ average fat score our bulls achieved. In order to hit market specification, young bulls must achieve a fat score of 2+ and if not, will not be paid on the Quality Payment System and may not be eligible for a quality assurance payment if applicable. Averages can be misleading and it is important to note that only one LM bull did not hit the fat specification and severely reduced the average fat score achieved. This particular bull received payment that was €0.32/kg lower than the rest of the bulls that were slaughtered. More information on The Teagasc Beef Production System Guidelines for 16 month Bull Beef can be found on the Teagasc website or by following the link

[https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2015/109311\\_BeefProdSystemGuide\\_10\\_a.pdf](https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2015/109311_BeefProdSystemGuide_10_a.pdf)

### Breeding

- Start date: 01/05/17
- Pregnancy scanning carried out 35 days post AI
- 1<sup>st</sup> scan 31/35 in calf (20/06/17)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> scan 30/32 in calf (07/07/17)

### Grassland management

- Farm cover: 741kg DM/ha
- Growth: 54kg DM/ha/day
- Demand/ha: 51kg DM/ha/day
- Days ahead: 12
- Fertiliser following grazing: CAN (1bag/acre)

### Weekly planner

- Sow clover as paddocks become available