

# Derrypatrick Farm Notes Week beginning 27/03/2017

## General details

Animals returned to grass Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, following housing the week previous due to poor weather and ground conditions. Our target is to graze as much of the silage ground as possible by the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, with this in mind 50 cows with calves at foot and 63 yearlings are currently grazing this area. The grass demand on the silage ground will increase as we continue to turn cows out once calves are at least 10 days of age. Due to the unexpected grass growth over the last number of weeks and poor grazing conditions, we won't get the chance to graze 30% of our silage ground before closing for 1<sup>st</sup> cut. Fortunately, this area was subject to a tight grazing last autumn and there is no dead material present in the sward therefore, the quality should not be a major issue.

## 16 month bulls

Bulls that are destined for slaughter at 16 months of age were weighed this week and their performance is outlined in table 1. We are happy with current performance, particularly since animals have been offered their barley based concentrate ad-lib.

|    | Weight @ housing | Weight 28th March | ADG since housing | ADG since ad-lib | 2016 ADG ad-lib to 28 <sup>th</sup> March |
|----|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
| EM | 385kg            | 559kg             | 1.27kg            | 1.77kg           | 1.76kg                                    |
| LM | 364kg            | 543kg             | 1.31kg            | 1.79kg           | 1.52kg                                    |

**Table 1. 16 month bull weights**

## Calving

- Start date: 30/1/17
- Total calved : 60/86 = 70%
- Total live calves - 57
- Mortalities: 3 still-births
- Sections: 3
- Calf average birth-weight: 42kg
- We had a deformed calf at birth this week. Immediate action was taken to find out the cause of the calf deformation. A BVD sample was taken and immediately posted, while the calf was brought to Backweston laboratories for a post-mortem. At the time of writing, we had no result back from either source.

## Grassland

- Farm cover: 1,460 kg DM/ha
- Growth: 32kg DM/ha (from previous cover) Grange growth: 24kg DM/ha
- Farm cover is currently well above target and decisions will be made over the coming weeks on how best to manage
- Focus next week will focus on fertilising all ground that is due to be closed for 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage