In this case, 72% of calves would reach 240 days of age with a good body condition score (BCS) without any additional feeding, even with a good BCS at the end of the winter. The main aim is to make sure that each calf reaches 500 kg at weaning, as well as providing better growth rates and the option of extra finishers. This will ensure that the calf grows faster and is already ready for slaughter at 240 days of age, which is the normal age now for feedlots in Ireland. This will help to reduce the cost of feed and improve the profitability of the farm.

In conclusion, careful planning and management of the winter feeding programme are crucial for the successful growth and development of the calves. Good nutrition, appropriate management practices, and regular monitoring of the calves’ progress will ensure that the calves reach their target weights and BCS at the end of the winter, setting them up for a successful finish in the feedlot. The goal is to achieve the highest possible growth rates and BCS to maximize profitability and minimize costs.