

## Teagasc Dairy Beef Programme

### Update, Johnstown Castle

**Date of writing:** 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

**Covering period:** January- February 2018

This winter and early spring has brought wet and cold weather to Johnstown Castle, as it has countrywide. Rainfall for the month of January was 109.8 ml, with 54.3 ml falling in February. The average soil temperature for February was 3.7°C.

The cold soil conditions have not allowed for any early spring growth. With snowfall and wintry conditions forecast for March, it will be a number of weeks before any cattle will be let out to graze. A new handling facility is being built on the beef unit, which will allow for easier handling and weighing of stock.

### **Animal performance:**

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#### **Older Cattle**

- The last group of heifers were killed on 29<sup>th</sup> January. All steers will be turned out to pasture as soon as conditions allow and will be killed off grass with some concentrate supplementation in June/July.
- The steers averaged 503 kg on the 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- For their second winter, the steers are averaging 0.426 kg/day of gain.
- From the silage intakes (23-25 January), the steers were eating 6.7 kgDM silage/head/day (26.1% DM silage), which was lower than the previous intakes taken in November.

#### *Steer liveweight (kg) and ADG*

	LW 25/01/2018	ADG second winter
<b>High</b>	487	0.392
<b>Medium</b>	510	0.446
<b>Low</b>	511	0.439

#### *Heifer performance*

	ADG second winter	Lifetime ADG (since first weight)	Final liveweight at slaughter (kg)
<b>High</b>	0.735	1.040	539
<b>Medium</b>	0.777	1.119	566
<b>Low</b>	0.775	1.211	561

#### **Slaughter results**

- The final group of heifers were killed on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- In total, the heifers averaged 283 kg carcass weight at 22 months of age.
- The average conformation score was O+, with an average fat score of just below a 4-.
- 77% of the heifers made QAS bonus specification.

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*Heifer slaughter result, stocking density*

	Age at slaughter (days)	LW at slaughter (kg)	Carcass weight (kg)	Conformation	Fat
<b>High</b>	681	543	276	6 (O+)	9.5 (3+/4-)
<b>Medium</b>	683	568	286	6 (O+)	10.1 (4-)
<b>Low</b>	690	564	286	6.3 (O+)	10.1 (4-)

*Heifer slaughter result, breed*

	Age at slaughter (days)	LW at slaughter (kg)	Carcass weight (kg)	Conformation	Fat
<b>Angus</b>	679	572	286	5.9 (O+)	10.3 (4-)
<b>Hereford</b>	682	559	281	5.7 (O=/O+)	11 (4=)
<b>Limousin</b>	693	547	281	6.7 (O+/R-)	8.5 (3=/3+)

## Weanlings

- Weanlings are on *ad lib* silage with ~2kg concentrate/head/day.
- Weanlings were weighed on the 25/26<sup>th</sup> January, averaging 264kg.
- Due to the building of the new facility, no weight was taken in February.
- The weanlings housed on straw have picked up greatly in performance.
- It is hoped to get the weanlings out to grass before the end of March, weather depending.

	Liveweight 25/01/2018	ADG second winter
<b>High</b>	257	0.687
<b>Medium</b>	268	0.734
<b>Low</b>	267	0.773