Targeted feeding with meal can help maximise prices for animals earmarked for slaughter before the winter, writes Gordon Peppard.

**Key messages for every calf to beef enterprise**

- **Soil fertility** will be corrected and paddocks will be used to produce more high quality grass for growing fat lambs.
- A health plan will be put in place in conjunction with the herd vet and this will filter through on a vaccination programme.
- **Animal health plan**
  - At the beginning of calves reared on farm, diseases pressure also increase dramatically due to calf management stresses in the autumn. So, this is where a good health plan is essential.
  - All in all, a strategic and well-planned health plan is essential to avoid any problems in relation to calf to beef.

**FARM WALK SHOW CASES COME FROM SUCKLING TO CALVES**

**MICHAEL** and **Kathleen Flynn** hosting a Teagasc Green Acres/Calf to Beef farm walk on Wednesday, September 14 at 2.30pm.

The walk will focus on the Flynn production system, dryland and intensive systems. The Flynn farm is 57 hectares of land at Puckane, Co. Tipperary, with 100 calves and heifers. They are reared on milk replacer plus grass. These calves are reared on milk replacer plus grass for their first grazing season. They are housed in mid to late November and fed silage indoors in conjunction with the quality of silage is based on the quality of grass. The silage is harvested in October and November by a Pall mistage. The event will focus on the Flynns’ production system, dryland and intensive systems. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 2.30pm.

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**Soil fertility**

- The fertiliser of fields has become a key focus, with lime being applied every 3-4 years. The Flynns farm 57 hectares of land at Puckane, Co. Tipperary, with 100 calves and heifers. They are reared on milk replacer plus grass for their first grazing season. They are housed in mid to late November and fed silage indoors in conjunction with the quality of silage is based on the quality of grass. The silage is harvested in October and November by a Pall mistage. The event will focus on the Flynns’ production system, dryland and intensive systems. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 2.30pm.

- **Animal health plan**
  - This will be the biggest investment in the farm and its focus will be on reducing the number of treatments in relation to calf to beef.
  - There will be excellent information available on all farms and the importance of vaccination.

- **Phosphorus and Potassium**
  - There will also be a focus on the importance of phosphorus and potassium in the farm’s management plan.

- **Farming Independent**
  - This will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 2.30pm.

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**Using meal to add the finishing touch**

**Trials at Teagasc Grange have shown that** when cattle had a response to feeding two to four kilogrammes of grass quality declines then the final finishing stage and as the cattle varied depending on at grass would be very low or non-economic return to meal feeding animals been fed.

In that scenario the economic return to meal feeding at grass varies depending on off of grass from August to November and does not require protein to house cattle and put them to achieve a high energy finishing diet.

**MARGIN OVER MEAL €/KG CARCASE**

- For example at €260/ton, 12kgs meal costs €3.12, therefore a beef企业 average weight of 360kg would be €110.88.

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