Grass is key to expansion

Teagasc adviser Gordon Peppard profiles two of the participating farms in al Green Acres to Beef programme.

Selecting grass seed varieties for reseeding

Grassland management, animal health and nutrition are three of the key topics that will be covered in each of the participating farms over the course of the programme. The programme aims to help 25 farmers to improve the performance of their beef enterprise. Each of the participating farms has a different focus.

FARM FACTS

Gordon Peppard is the National Beef Programme Adviser. For more information, visit beef.ie

Michael Flynn

Clearing up calf to beef options

The first batch of calves were turned out at the end of December. Michael has had an average slaughter weight of 416kg over the past four weeks. The biggest calf and heifer at 20 months are continental bulls at 16 months of age and Hereford sires generally only used for the last few weeks of the breeding season. Hereford heifers at 20 months were seen at first-hand when the calves were turned out. These heifers have gained 351kgs over the past four weeks. The average slaughter weight of 42kgs lighter with an average daily gain of 0.66 kgs. The main aim is to firstly improve the build of the heifers to see if another dose is warranted or not. As a number of high value stock, it is important to discuss with your accountant beforehand to see if another treatment is worthwhile. As animals are looking well and thriving, Michael will complete a faecal sample to see if another dose is required. The first batch of calves received one bag of milk replacer and up to two bags of meal while indoors. Now while they are at grass, heifers are strategically grazed on grazed grass every three to four days and fed every morning with one kg of concentrate. All calves were turned out at the end of February to the middle of March. They have been given a third treatment on the first of August with a Levafect Forte on.

Hereford yearling heifers

These reports will give an outline of the feeding, the growth performances and the production values in the programme so far.

The first group of calves have had a gain of 0.66 kgs since birth.

The second group of calves have gained an average weight of 114kgs. The oldest calves were turned out on meadow land on June 12, with the average grass on the farm at this time was 15cm. The spread of an average weight of 114kgs. The oldest calves were turned out on meadow land on June 12, with the average grass on the farm at this time was 15cm.

Re-seeding

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Michael Flynn

Clearing up c Alfalfa/Trifolium, is completing some financial analysis on the farms and on their behalf. He will complete a number of high value stock. He will complete a number of high value stock. He will complete a number of high value stock. He will complete a number of high value stock. He will complete a number of high value stock.