

## **BETTER Farm Update March 2018**

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### Lowland Flocks

Lambing on the lowland flocks is nearing a close at this point with mainly the yearling ewes left to lamb on most of the farms. In general lambing went well for the farms but grass supplies are behind target on almost all the farms meaning concentrate supplementation will be necessary in some cases until grass growth rates improve. Introducing supplementation will allow the farms to slow the rotation and allow paddock covers improve as opposed to moving too quickly through the first rotation and having the entire farm grazed out before growth rates can improve. Difficult ground conditions has also meant some of the farms were late getting on their first application of fertilizer further reducing grass supplies. The flocks will be establishing bigger grazing groups as soon as possible this month and getting the grazing rotation in full swing as well as applying a further round of fertilizer.



Ewes and lambs grazing on the farm of Peadar Kearney on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March

## Hill Flocks

The hill flocks are reporting that ewe condition is very mixed and for some of the flocks more ewes than normal have been held in for additional feeding over the past couple of months. Once again grass on in-bye ground is an issue for the flocks with an increase in grass growth rates needed. However, a big focus for the flocks in recent years has been correcting soil fertility issues on in-bye ground so when the weather does improve grass growth rates should respond quickly.