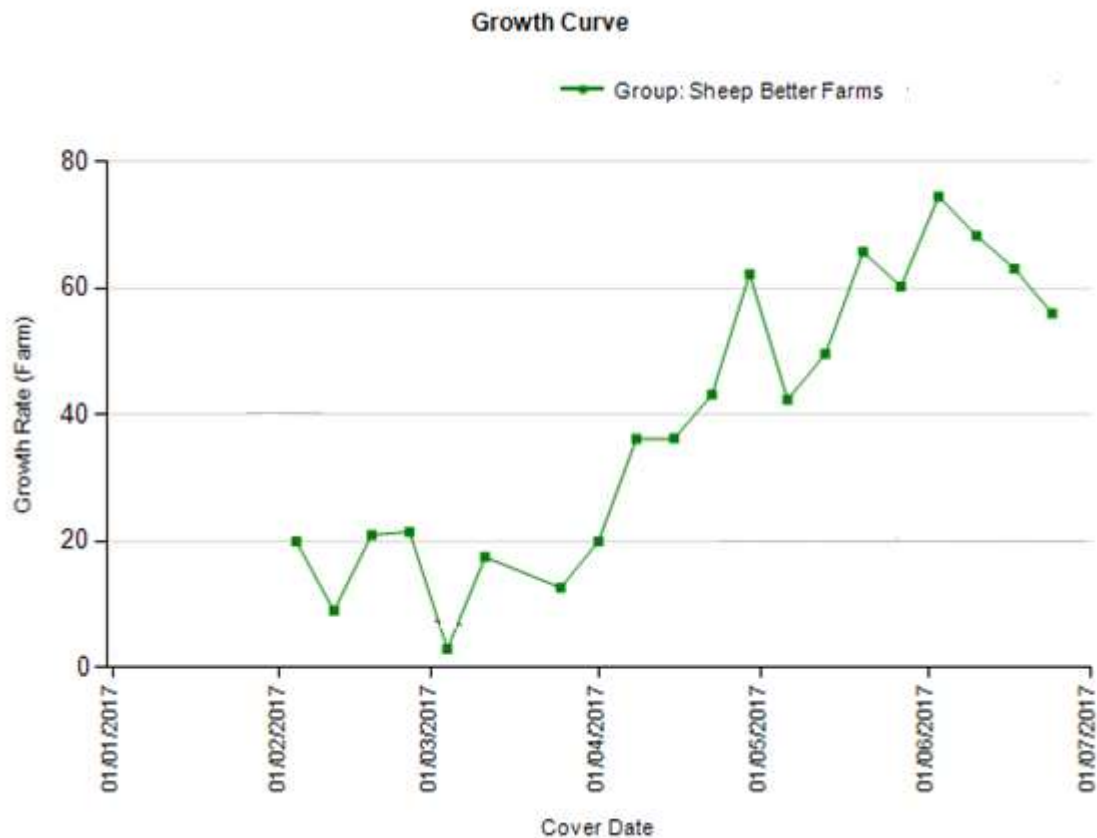


BETTER Farm update July

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Weaning on the lowland flocks is in full swing now which for most of the flocks this means weaning during late June and the first week of July. The target is to wean lambs at approximately 14 weeks of age and allow lambs preferential access to high quality grass from then on (target pre-grazing height of approximately 8cm). The dry ewes will then be used to follow behind the lambs to clean out paddocks to maintain grass quality. Nearly all of the flocks have drafted some lambs for sale at this point, mainly lambs that had been reared as singles or pet lambs being finished indoors on concentrates. Anecdotally most of the farms are reporting that lamb performance appears to be good for this time of year. The dry spell in June allowed these farms to take further cuts of silage and the re-growths on these paddocks will provide lambs with high quality grass immediately post weaning. Grass growth in June was variable with growth dropping below demand at times but overall growth rates and the weather has meant that grass supplies have been very good across the farms. The grass growth curve for the year to date is presented in Fig.1.



Results from the FECPAK samples sent in during June have shown a sharp rise in Strongyle egg counts on some of the farms dosing with either a 3-ML dose or a 1-BZ and 2-LV combination dose. The farms will carry out drench tests during July to establish the current resistance status on the farms.

Hill flocks

All of the 7 week weights have been collected on the hill flocks at this point and there will be an update on these next month. Lamb performance is variable across the flocks with singles in particular performing well so far.