

BETTER Farm update July

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Weaning of lambs on the lowland flocks is well under way with most of the flocks hoping to have weaned by early July with lambs at approximately 14 weeks of age. The recent extended dry spell in some parts of the country is putting pressure on grass supplies, meaning weaning of lambs on time is of particular importance in order to give lambs preferential access to grass on the farms. Post-weaning lambs will get preferential access to high quality grass (target pre-grazing height of approximately 8cm) with the ewes used to follow behind the lambs to clean out paddocks to maintain grass quality. All of the farms have first cut silage made at this stage and this has been supplemented with excess paddocks being cut also. As a result there will be plenty of high quality re-growths available to lambs after weaning. Some of the farms have begun selling lambs with the lambs fit so far mainly being singles and pet lambs finished indoors.

At the time of writing dosing for *Trichostrongylus* has begun on some of the farms on the result of FECPAK results. Recent dry conditions appears to be keeping parasite pressure low on some farms currently but this will need careful monitoring once the moisture levels in the ground increase.