

BETTER Farm Update May 2018

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At the time of writing the exceptionally difficult spring is beginning to loosen its grip on both the lowland hill BETTER sheep farms. Grass growth rates are returning to normal and average farm covers are slowly rising back to target levels. Most of the flocks have been meal feeding ewes, and in some cases lambs since lambing in order to overcome shortages in grass and fodder supplies. Feeding rates are being reduced presently across the farms as grass supplies come back in line with demand. Lambs on the lowland farms were treated for nematodirus in late April using either a white (Benzimidazole; 1-BZ) or yellow (Levamisole; 2-LV) anthelmintic. Over the next two to three weeks all lambs will be weighed for their 7 week weight which will give a good indication of how lamb performance has been affected by the difficult spring conditions

The hill flocks are a long way through lambing at this time also. Ewe body condition score and feed/grass supplies still remain a problem but the pressure on these is starting to ease. Most of the farms are trying to return strong ewes and lambs back to the hill as quick as possible to relief the pressure on in-bye/green ground for the rest of the flock.