

BETTER Farm Update June 2022

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Lamb growth rates to seven weeks post-partum are presented in Table 1. and are for the most part on target. Some of the flocks have seen exceptional lamb performance with the combination of good grass supplies and comparatively settled weather conditions, particularly initially after lambing, for most helping flocks to maximise performance at grass. All the flocks dosed for nematodes using a white drench with some flocks going with a second white drench in mid-May. Faecal egg counts will be used to determine when to worm dose lambs for the remainder of the year with the flocks starting to sample in late May.

Table 1. Mean lamb performance from the lowland flocks from birth to 7 weeks of age with range in brackets

Birth Type	Birth Weight (kg)	Growth Rate (g/day)	7 Week Weight (kg)
1	6.4 (5.8-6.8)	353 (315-381)	24.0 (21.2-26.0)
2	5.3 (4.9-5.7)	291 (260-331)	19.6 (17.6-22.0)
3+*	4.7 (4.2-5.4)	398 (292-312)	19.5 (18.8-20.3)

*Born as triplets and reared as twins

Some of the flocks got to make a small amount of silage in mid-May and at the time of writing most are waiting for the weather to settle to cut the main crop of silage for the year with a big focus on trying to make high quality silage. The flocks will be targeting 10 grazing days ahead from early June and will be dropping out paddocks and sub-dividing paddocks as necessary to keep to this target and optimise performance of the flock. Second rounds of fertiliser have been applied and all the flocks are going with a reduced amount to previous years. Rates varied depending on grass supply on the farms but even where supplies were good at least 25 units/ha was applied (10units/ac) to try and keep grass quality high.