

BETTER Farm update September 2021

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The hill flocks weaned their lambs during August and a summary of the weights is presented in Table 1 from four of the flocks. Lamb performance has generally been good across the hill flocks and the farms are assessing their options for selling these lambs based on local store lamb prices and the grass and facilities available for finishing lambs on farm. Available grass supplies on enclosed/green ground as these farms as we move into the autumn and early winter will be prioritised for the ewe flock for mating with only additional grass potentially available to lambs.

Table 1. Lamb performance from 3 of the Teagasc BETTER hill sheep flocks from birth to 14 weeks (weaning).

Birth Type	Growth Rate Birth to 14 Weeks (g/day)		14 Week Weight (kg)	
	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
1	225	202-243	27.0	24.6-30.9
2	175	154-189	22.6	18.8-27.9

New Flocks

We are pleased to announce that two new flocks are joining the Teagasc BETTER farm sheep program this year;

- Eddie Gavin who runs both a lowland sheep flock alongside beef and tillage enterprises near Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
- Brian Keane who also runs lowland sheep flock alongside beef and tillage enterprises near Enniscorthy in Co. Wexford.

Farm plans for both flocks are currently been discussed as the breeding the season approaches and full inventories of all sheep are being collected as they begin performance recording in their flocks.