

## **BETTER Farm Update May 2020**

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Lambing on the lowland BETTER farms is as good as finished at the time of writing. Overall lambing has gone well for the flocks with weather conditions helping as it was possible to keep moving ewes and lambs out during lambing. The start of April signalled the start of lambing for the hill flocks and reports from the flocks to date are that it is going well.

After a relatively slow start to the grass growing year with the flocks struggling to get out with fertilizer until March grass growth has begun to take off in April. The farms are measuring regularly now that lambing has finished as it will be important to keep a close eye on grass growth rates as they increase above grass demand. Paddocks will be dropped out of the grazing rotation as necessary and closed for silage in order to keep a supply of good quality grass in front of the ewes and lambs.

On the lowland farms lambs were treated for *Nematodirus* in late April in line with the DAFM forecast using a white drench (Benzimidazole; 1-BZ). For some of the flocks a second drench for *Nematodirus* may be necessary where some of the lambs were still quite young at the time of the first dose. Worm dosing for the rest of the year will be based on the results of the FECPAK analysis in line with best practice recommendations.