

Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry

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Rams were removed from flocks on 19th of November after a 6 week mating period. Repeat numbers appear to be low but we will have to wait until scanning to get a more accurate picture of performance. At this point lamb drafting percentages stand at 96% for low stocking rate groups, 89% for the medium and 83% for the high stocking rate groups. Remaining lambs in the low and medium stocking rate groups were introduced to concentrates in early November at grass at a rate of 0.5kg of concentrate/hd/day as performance had dropped back to less than 100g/day on grass only. Any remaining lambs in these groups joined the remaining high stocking rate lambs in the shed at the end of November. High stocking rate ewes will be housed the first week of December based on current grass supplies with sufficient grass reserves to carry the medium stocking rate groups until mid to late December and the low stocking rate group's until mid to late January although this will depend greatly on weather conditions and utilisation levels.