

Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry

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Drafting of lambs continues. On a stocking rate basis, 64% of lambs have been drafted from low stocking rate (10 ewes/ha) groups with 54% from the medium (12 ewes/ha) and 44% from high stocking rate (14 ewes/ha) groups. There are slightly higher numbers of lambs drafted from the medium prolificacy groups (58% v 50%). Average live weight for lambs drafted to date (September 21st) was 44.4 kg with average carcase weight 19.5kg. Current lamb growth rates are in the region of 140-180 g/day. Average lightweight of remaining lambs is in the range of 37 to 41kg. Grass growth rates have been good for the time of year at between 40 -70 kg DM/ha/day. This is allowing covers to build as we go into the autumn with between 25 (high stocking rate) and 35 days (low stocking rate) grazing ahead of the groups at present excluding the paddocks reseeded in August which will come back into the rotation in the coming weeks once they have received their post emergence weed control spray.