

Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry

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Lamb performance since weaning has ranged between 154g/day to 183g/day with lamb weights now averaging 34.6 to 36kg. To date (July 21st) a total of 68 lambs have been drafted at an average live weight of 42.7kg with a carcass weight of 19.4kg. This represents an average kill out percentage of ~45%. Approximately 48% of these lambs were from the two low stocking rate groups with 33% and 19% coming from the medium and high stocking rate groups respectively. Lambs from medium prolificacy groups represented 53% of lambs drafted with the balance from high prolificacy groups. Based on faecal egg counts lambs received their first dose for worms in mid-July since their last treatment for *Nematodirus* in early May.

Silage reserves have improved since our last update and we now have surpluses in the region of 90% to 130% across the treatment groups. Due to the exceptional growth rates in June and early July a lot of surplus paddocks were baled which should provide high quality feed for next winter. Grass growth rates have been in the region of 40-60kg DM/ha/day for much of July ahead of demand at 30 to 45kg DM/ha/day. With silage requirements met we have sprayed off approximately 10% of each of the farmlet areas for reseeded in late July/early August.