

## **Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry**

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Rams were removed from flocks on 20<sup>th</sup> of November after just over 6 weeks mating. Repeat numbers appear to be low but we will have to wait until scanning to get a more accurate picture of performance. Forty lambs from the groups housed in October were drafted in mid November. The majority of these lambs were from the high stocking rate group and killed out at 20.9kg, having grown at a rate of ~260g/day since housing. They were being offered grass silage and up to 0.7kg concentrate per day. The remaining lambs which make up the tail end lambs from every group have not grown at quite the same rate and have averaged just ~180g/day since housing. They have now been increased to ad-lib meals. Closing of paddocks commenced on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Ewes in the high stocking rate groups were housed on the 28th of November. There are sufficient grass reserves to carry the medium stocking rate groups for a further week/ten days with reserves in the low stocking rate group's sufficient to remain grazing until late December/early January although this will depend greatly on weather conditions and utilisation levels. All ewes received a fluke dose in mid November and will receive a second treatment in late December/early January.