

## Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry

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Ewes were scanned in early January. Preliminary analysis shows a scan rate of 1.76 in the medium prolific flocks with the high prolific groups averaging 2.04. Further investigation on the effect of stocking rate within prolificacy group is required. Ewes are in good body condition averaging 3.0 to 3.5 BCS. The medium stocking rate groups were housed on December 30<sup>th</sup> with the low stocking rate groups housed on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Ewes are now being offered grass silage (72 DMD) and have been grouped according to scanned litter size and will be offered concentrates as shown in Table 1. Grass covers are building with the first paddocks due for grazing in early March having a cover of ~650-700kg DM/ha (5-6cm). Nitrogen in the form of urea will be blanket spread on all farmlets at a rate of 23 units/ac (half bag) once soil temperatures are above 6-7 degrees in early to mid February to help boost grass covers prior to turnout in March. The pre lambing clostridia booster will be administered in early February ahead of lambing start date of March 1<sup>st</sup>. The last batch of lambs were drafted from the shed in early January, at an average liveweight of 43.5kg with an average carcass weight of 19.49kg.

**Table 1.**

	Weeks pre lambing				Total
	7	6-5	4-3	2-1	
	Concentrates (kg/ewe/day)				
Singles	-	-	0.3	0.6	13
Twins	-	0.3	0.5	0.7	21
Triplets	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.9	27