

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

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Rams were introduced to the flocks on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October and removed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November giving a breeding season length of just under 7 weeks. The majority of ewes were bred during the first and the beginning of the second cycle. Ewes will be scanned in early January. Rams were housed after removal and are receiving 0.5kg/head/day of meal and ad lib silage.

Closing of paddocks commenced in late October and so there is a range of grass covers on the farm ranging between 650kg DM /ha (paddocks to be grazed first in spring) down to 50 kg DM /ha (paddocks closed last). The grazing season finished in early December with the high stocking rate group housed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December followed by the medium and low stocking rate groups on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December due to weather/ground conditions. Ewes are housed in straw bedded sheds and are being offered baled silage (70 DMD) ad lib. They will receive a fluke dose in late December/early January.