

Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry

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Lambing is due to commence on March 5th. Ewes are still being offered grass silage (70 DMD) and have been supplemented with concentrates, with amounts varying depending on scanned litter size as in Table 1. All ewes received their clostridia booster vaccine 4 weeks pre lambing. Nitrogen in the form of urea was blanket spread on all farmlets at a rate of 23 units/ac (half bag) in mid February to help boost grass covers. The First paddocks closed now have a cover of 700kg DM/ha (6cm). This is likely to increase to close to 1000kg DM/ha (7cm) approx by early March. Grass growth rates of 3-4kg DM/day were recorded over winter (mild conditions).

Table 1.

	Weeks pre lambing				
	7	6-5	4-3	2-1	Total
	Concentrates (kg/ewe/day)				
Singles	-	-	0.3	0.5	12
Twins	-	0.2	0.4	0.6	17
Triplets	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	22