

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

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Drafting of lambs continues. On a stocking rate basis, 77% of lambs have been drafted from low stocking rate (10 ewes/ha) groups with 59% from the medium (12 ewes/ha) and 53% from high stocking rate (14 ewes/ha) groups. Prolificacy levels are not having a big effect with slightly higher numbers of lambs drafted from the medium prolificacy groups (64% v 61%). Average live weight for lambs drafted to date (September 24<sup>th</sup>) was 44.9 kg with average carcass weight 19.71kg. Current lamb growth rates are in the region of 160-180 g/day. Average lightweight of remaining lambs is in the range of 39 to 42kg. Grass growth rates have been good for the time of year at between 50 -80 kg DM/ha/day. This is allowing covers to build as we go into the autumn with between 20 (high stocking rate) and 50 days (low stocking rate) grazing ahead of the groups at present.