

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

Philip Creighton, Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Teagasc  
Athenry, Co Galway.

Lambing is due to commence on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Ewes are still being offered grass silage (73 DMD) with concentrates stepped up to 0.6kg, 0.75kg and 0.95kg/hd/day at the point of lambing for ewes carrying singles, twins and triplets respectively. All ewes received their clostridia and pasteurella booster vaccine 4 weeks pre lambing. Grass growth rates have been average at about 5 kg DM/ha/day for the last month. The first paddocks closed now have covers of 800-1100 Kg/DM/ha (~6-7cm). Nitrogen in the form of urea was blanket spread on all farmlets at a rate of 23 units/ac ( $\frac{1}{2}$  bag) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of February once soil temperatures went above 5 degrees (currently averaging 6C). A response rate of 15-25kg grass DM per kg of N applied can be expected in early March. Soil samples were taken in February and we will base fertiliser applications for the year around the results when available.