**Derrypatrick spring 2019**

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**Derrypatrick planner**

- The remaining 170 bullocks and heifers will be slaughtered in the next coming weeks.
- We will be aiming to let out replacement heifers in the first week of February (weather permitting).
- Cows vaccinated with Revovac Cervene pre-calving to reduce scour.
- The calving facilities will be prepared over the next few weeks.

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**Pre-calving management**

**NUTRITION**

- **Pre-calving nutrition:** cows are currently on good quality grass and have been condition scored at 3.0 when last measured in early January. Cows are receiving a pre-calving mineral.
- **Post-calving nutrition:** cows in good condition at calving and going to grass after calving will suffer on moderate quality grass with no concentrates.
- Any cows that are in poor condition after calving will be supplemented with 2kg to 3kg concentrates.
- Cows will be moved to the calving shed prior to their due date.
- Each calving pen will be cleared after each cow is removed to help prevent the buildup of bacteria and the spread of infection.

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**YEARnings**

- **Feedings are currently on very good quality grass (75% DMc) and 1.5kg of concentrates. Yearling steers are 388 kg and yearling heifers are 360 kg.**

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**Breeding**

- The aims of this new breeding strategy began in 2017: calves that were born in spring 2018 are the first progeny of this new breeding strategy. The calves from these sires will be managed to slaughter in a 30-month heifer or 36-month steer production system.

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**Reseeding 2018**

- In autumn 2018, four low-performing paddocks in the Derrypatrick were reseeded for reseeding. The area for reseeding was sprayed on 22 August. The variety chosen for reseeding of these paddocks was Oskarpark, a late heading diploid variety; this was sown at 30kg/ha. Two of the four paddocks also had 2.3kg/ha of medium-leaved white clover cultivars Cheltenham and Aberdeenshire included in the mix.

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**Replacement sires**

- **Breed**
  - CRM: Verva
  - CH: CHX2124
  - LM: LM909
  - SI: SI208
  - AA: ZLL
  - AA: RDZ

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**Terminal sires**

- **Breed**
  - AI code: Name
  - Irish: Fionn
  - SNZ: Sylverner
  - LM909: Mulcair
  - ZEP: Hawkeye Red Zespire
  - GJH: Gourgeous Jumbo Red K43B ET

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**How we’ll ensure optimum spring grazing management**

- **Farm cover at turnout should be 600kg to 700kg DM/ha.**
- **Large paddocks will be grazed by suckler cows early April.**
- Follow the spring rotation plan for heavy farms: grass 40% of farm by 11 March, 100% by 20 April.
- Target a post-calving grazing height of 3.5cm to 4cm during the first rotation to ensure good grass utilisation and good grass quality for subsequent rotations.

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**How to optimise spring grazing management**

- **Lighter stock, e.g. weanings, do less damage in more challenging weather.**
- **Aim to finish the first rotation by 20 April (or “magic day” – when grass growth equals grass demand).**
- Avoid patching fields.

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**Fertiliser**

- In order to prepare for early spring grazing, 30kg N/ha half a bag of urea per acre (40% N) will be applied to paddocks when soil temperatures rise to 5°C to 6°C and once ground conditions allow. Urea will be targeted to paddocks that are low in P and K (as indicated by a soil test) and where grass covers are low.

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**Table 1**

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