

BETTER Farm update:

By Ciaran Lynch

Lambing got underway just after Christmas for the 3 farms with early lamb flocks. In the three cases ewes were synchronised last August, so lambing was a compact but busy process. Suffolk and Texel rams sired all the lambs in these 3 flocks, these rams were used in single sire mating groups and the performance of their progeny will be measured during the season.

Some of Peadar Kearney ewes in Co. Louth before turnout



John Doyle's ewes with lambs being kept in smaller numbers before being grouped up at turnout



Mid-season flocks

The mid-season flocks have been busy scanning this month. Overall the results are similar to last year for the ewe flocks; however there have been some improvements for individual flocks. A summary of the scan results for individual flocks is presented in Table 1. Following scanning ewes will be split into their feeding groups

Table 1. Ewe flock scanning results on the BETTER farms

	McLaughlin Donegal	Kearney Louth	O'Connell Leitrim	Curley Roscommon	Spillane Tipperary	Nicholson Kilkenny	Doyle Wexford	O'Leary Kerry
Scanned litter size	2.16	2.21	2.01	1.83	1.88	1.93	1.98	2.11
Scanned pregnancy rate	100	95.2	92.7	97	98.8	97.90	96.9	96.2
Scanning rate	2.16	2.1	1.87	1.78	1.85	1.88	1.92	2.03