Getting Winter Ready

Teagasc Autumn Beef Walk

Aonghusa Fahy's

Tullira, Ardrahan, Co Galway | September 27th 2024

Teagasc Future Beef Programme

The aim of Future Beef is to demonstrate to beef farmers how they can produce a quality product as efficiently as possible to make beef farming more profitable while also making it more environmentally and socially sustainable. Future Beef farmers are also participants in the Signpost Programme.

The whole programme hinges on our network of 21 demonstration farms. All our farmers have a very positive attitude towards suckler farming. They are willing to take on new technologies and develop efficiencies to improve profitability and reduce the negative effects of agriculture on the environment around them.

Key objectives:

- Create more sustainable and profitable farms
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) & ammonia emissions
- Improve water quality
- Improve biodiversity

We will achieve this by focussing on reducing inputs and the costs of production while increasing the performance of every animal on the farm.

Acknowledgement

We wish to thank the farmers that have agreed to take part in the programme, particularly to Aonghusa and his family for hosting this farm walk. We look forward to working with them and their local advisors over the coming years. We are confident that all parties involved in the programme will benefit hugely from the experience. We wish to acknowledge all the sponsors of the Future Beef Programme and thank them for their commitment to the programme.

Aonghusa Fahy Introduction

Farm System

- Farming 48 ha part time
  - 22ha home + 26ha Tulla, Co. Clare
- 21 suckler cows to store/beef system
  - Spring calving, 76% AI + 24% Bull
  - Breeding own replacements
  - Calving at 24 months

2024 Performance YTD

- 200 day weights
  - Heifers 1.14kg/day (277kg)
  - Bulls 1.21 kg/day (299kg)
- 370 day calving interval
- 0.94 calves/cow/year

Winter Health Plan

1. Take FEC sample to assess parasite burden

- **Fresh dung sample from 10-15 animals**
- **Results show eggs per gram of faeces:**

0	200	400	600 …
Low	Moderate		Severe

2. Check Beef HealthCheck reports

Beef HealthCheck Report

TAG	SEX	AGE (mths)	CARCASE (kg)	LIVER SCORE	LUNG SCORE
IE 12 34567 8 0001	E	20	330	1	3
IE 12 34567 8 0002	C	22	360	3 / 5	1
IE 12 34567 8 0003	D	40	400	2	1
IE 12 34567 8 0004	B	44	500	1	1
IE 12 34567 8 0005	E	19	340	1	2
IE 12 34567 8 0006	C	20	350	1	4
IE 12 34567 8 0007	D	56	410	4	1

What do the scores mean?

Liver score

1 – Normal liver
2 – Liver fluke damage
3 – Live liver fluke
4 – Other damage
5 – Liver abscess

Lung score

1 – Normal lung
2 – Limited pneumonia
3 – Extensive pneumonia
4 – Other damage

3. What do you need to dose for?

- **Lungworm**
  - Symptom: coughing with tongue extended – advice is to treat
- **Stomach & gut worms**
  - **DO NOT** use a levamisole
  - Anthelminthic resistance is an issue
- **Mites & lice**
  - Injectable products don't work well on biting lice; use pour-on

---

- **Liver fluke, 3 product types that treat:**
  - **Adult fluke –** May need 2nd treatment
  - **Juveniles –** Give 7 weeks after housing
  - **All stages –** Give 2 weeks after housing

- **Rumen fluke**
  - Only treat if there are clinical signs e.g. weight loss, scours

4. Respiratory disease vaccinations

- **RSV, Pi3**
- **Mannheimia haemolytica**
- **IBR**

- **Intranasal, subcutaneous & intramuscular options available**
- **1 or 2 shots depending on product**

Liver Fluke Products

Active ingredient	Sample product	Dose after cattle housed		Admin route	Withdrawal
Triclabendazole	Endofluke 10% Fasinex 240 Tribex 10% Cydecdectin Triclamox	2 weeks 2 weeks 6 weeks	Early immature, immature, adult fluke	Oral drench Oral drench Oral drench Pour on	56 days 56 days 56 days 143 days
Closantel	Closamectin inj. Closamectin Pour-on Solantel Flukiver 5% bovis	7 weeks 7 weeks 7 weeks 8 weeks	Immature, adult fluke	Injection Pour-on Pour-on Injection	49 days 58 days (was 28 days) 63 days 77 days
Rafoxanide	Ridafluke	7 weeks	Immature, adult fluke	Oral drench	60 days
Nitroxynil	Fascionix 34%	8 weeks	Immature, adult fluke	Injection	60 days
Albendazole	Albex 10% Endospec 10%	10 -12 weeks 10 -12weeks	Adult fluke	Oral drench Oral drench	14 days 14 days
Clorsulon	Bi mectin plus Ivomec super	10 -12weeks 10 -12 weeks	Adult fluke	Injection Injection	66 days 66 days
Oxyclozanide	Levafas Diamond Zanil Rumenil	10- 12 weeks 10 -12 weeks 10 – 12 weeks	Adult fluke	Oral drench Oral drench Oral drench	28 days 13 days 13 days

Housing & Feed Space

Importance:

- Welfare standards
- Animal Performance
- Health
- Cleanliness
- Profit

Considerations:

- Lying space per head
- Access to feed
- Water availability
- Floor surface
- Behaviour

Recommended housing space allowance (m^2 per head)

Animal Type	Slatted	Straw
Suckler Cows	2.5 – 3.0	5 .0
Calves	1.5 – 1.8	2.4 – 3.0
Cattle 220 - 300 kg	1.2 – 1.5	1.8 – 3.0
Cattle 310 - 450 kg	1.5 – 2.0	2.4 – 3.0
Finishing Cattle 500 - 750 kg	2.2 – 2.7	4.0

****Research shows that 2m^2 is NOT sufficient for finishing animals – Can reduce carcass weight by 20kg/animal****

****Rubber mats on slats increase carcass weight by 11kg vs. concrete slats only****

Recommended feed space allowances (mm per head)

Feeding Regime	Suckler Cows	Finishing Cattle	Light Stores	Weanlings
Ad-Lib Silage	400-500	400-500	250-300	225-300
Restricted Silage	600-700	600-650	500-600	400-500
Concentrates/roots	600-700	600-650	500-600	400-500

Ventilation

Targets

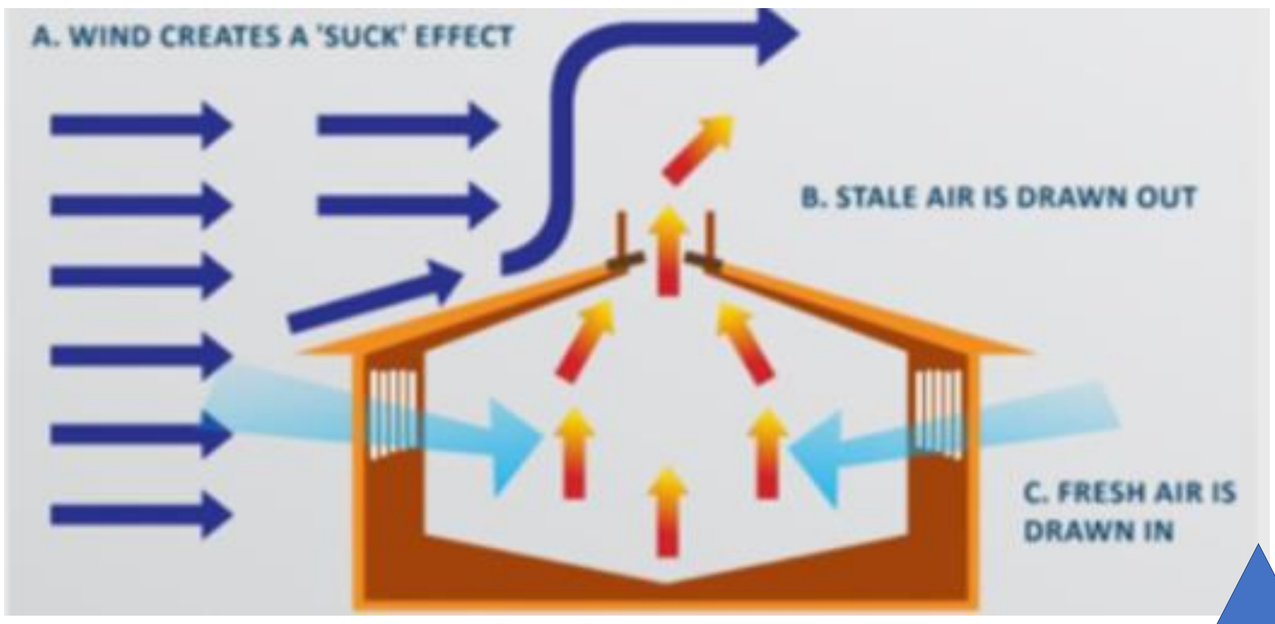
- Fresh air is an excellent disinfectant
- Cobwebs, dirty sheeting and lights are signs of inadequate ventilation
- Inlet: 0.1m²/animal
- Outlet: 0.2m²/animal

Options if ventilation is inadequate

- Roof pitch 15°
- Clean vented sheeting
- Angle out side sheeting
- Replace side sheeting with space boarding
- Raise ridge cap
- Raise sheets in roof

Clear Space

- Vented Sheeting = 11% clear space
- Space Boarding 100mm board, 25mm gap = 20% clear space
- Plastic Mesh = 50% Clear space



Space boarding
*150mm boards + 50mm gaps

Yorkshire boarding
Two rows separated by 50mm (40mm if exposed)
*150mm boards and 50mm gaps

*Note S101:75mm laths X 25mm thick + 25mm space

Avoid Draughts

H&S Winter Checks on Drystock Farms

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Future Beef
Sustainable Cattle Production

Machinery

- Service tractor & other machinery
- Safety guards on all PTO's and equipment
- Clean & tidy vehicles (windows - visibility and cab - safety while driving)
- Organised & tidy tool shed

Housing

- Check sheds are in good repair
- Gates, doors & feed barriers are secure & opening & closing properly
- Electrics working and safe
- Adequate ventilation in animal housing especially where slatted tanks

Yard

- Good lighting
- Clear vehicle & pedestrian pathways
- Tidy yards
- Pest control
- Sanitation facilities
- Locked medicine cabinet & chemical store

Think

Plan

Do

Risk Assessment

Emergency nos.

Eircode

Winter Nutrition

Future Beef
Sustainable Cattle Production

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

WEANLINGS & STORES

- >0.94 UFL
- Palatable
- 14 - 16% crude protein (CP) in total diet
- Vitamins + Minerals
- Supplement based on silage quality

FINISHING CATTLE

- UFV >0.95
- 11-12% CP Total
- Adequate dietary Fibre
- Vitamins + Minerals
- Water requirement high

RATION FORMULATION

- High energy = cereal based
- 3 - 5 ingredients max.
- Ingredients listed on label in descending order (Molasses 5% approx.)
- Talk to your advisor

Weanling Ration – Gain 0.6 Kg/day	% Inclusion	Nutrient Values as Fed
Barley	31%	UFL 0.95
Oats	30%	UFV 0.93
Beans	30%	Crude Protein 16.1%
Soyabean Meal	7%	**Cost/ton €_____
Minerals	2%	

Finishing Ration - Gain 1.4 Kg/day	% Inclusion	Nutrient Values as Fed
Barley	40%	UFL 0.98
Oats	10%	UFV 0.97
Maize	33%	Crude Protein 11.6%
Maize Distillers	15%	**Cost/ton €_____
Minerals	2%	

Ration Ingredients

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Future Beef
Sustainable Cattle Production

Ingredient	Energy UFL	Crude Protein %	€/t
Maize	1.05	8.5	
Barley	1.00	10	
Wheat	1.00	10	
Oats	0.90	10	
Soya bean meal	1.01	48	
Maize distillers	1.02	25	
Beans	1.00	25	
Peas	1.00	21	
Rapeseed meal	0.91	34	
Maize gluten	0.91	20	
Citrus pulp	1.00	6	
Soya hulls	0.92	10	
Unmolassed beet pulp	1.00	10	
Palm kernel	0.85	14	
Wheat feed (pollard)	0.75	16	
Sunflower oil	0.55	24	
Molasses	0.78	4.5	

En Energy Feeds

Protein Feeds

Digestible Fibres

Poorer Quality

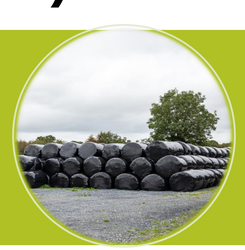
Silage Quality

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Future Beef
Sustainable Cattle Production

SILAGE TARGET?

- DMD: >72%
- Crude protein (% DM): >13.5%
- Dry matter: 25-30%
- pH: 3.8 - 4.5
- UFV/UFL(unit/kg DM): >0.89



SILAGE RESULT?

- DMD: _____
- Crude protein (% DM): ____
- Dry matter: _____
- pH: _____
- UFV/UFL (unit/kg DM): ___

KEY MESSAGES

- Hitting target weights = easier finishing and increases slaughter options
- Testing silage + correcting ration = improved performance
- **WEIGH!!**

Concentrate supplementation and silage quality

Silage quality	66 DMD	70 DMD	74 DMD
Finishing cattle target - 1kg ADG	7kg	5.5kg	4kg
Cost over 100 days at €310/t concentrate	€217	€171	€124
Store cattle target 0.6kg ADG	2kg	1.25kg	0.5kg
Cost over 100 days at €310/t concentrate	€62	€39	€16
Weanlings target 0.6kg ADG	3kg	2kg	1kg
Cost over 100 days at €310/t concentrate	€93	€62	€31

Less Labour

Fodder Budgeting

1. How much silage do you need?

Fodder Required

Animal Type Total	A No. stock for winter	B No. months (Including a 4-6 week reserve)	C No. bales required per month (at 20% DM)	D Total bales of silage needed (AxBxC)
Suckler cows			1.75	
0-1 yr old			0.9	
1-2 yr old			1.6	
2+ yr old			1.7	
Ewes			0.2	
Total bales needed				?

Total tonnes needed (bales divided by 1.25)

2. What quality do you need?

Dry Cows
66 DMD
silage

Calved
Cows
70+ DMD
silage

Weanlings /
Finishers/ Ewes
74+ DMD silage

Cattle Weights

Stock Group	No. Cattle	Weighing Date	Average Weight (Kg)	ADG Since Last Weighing (Kg/day)