

Teagasc Dairy Beef Programme

Update, Johnstown Castle

Date of writing: 03rd January 2018

Covering period: November – December 2017

Animal performance:

Older Cattle

- Heifers continue to be fed ad lib silage with 5.55 kg of concentrate (fresh weight). Steers are on *ad lib* grass silage only.
- Cattle were tagged for genotyping on the 8th and 9th of November. They were also weighed, dosed for worms and adult fluke and clipped and drenched for lice.
- From the silage intakes (14-17 and 21-24 Nov), the heifers are eating approximately 7.1 kgDM silage/head/day. With concentrates this equates to 11.4 kg dry matter intake per day. The steers are eating ~8.3 kgDM silage/head/day. The Limousin cattle appear to be eating the least.
- Heifers were body condition scored on the 1st December. The target is to reach a BCS of 3.75 which should correlate to a 3+ fat score in factory. From this 17 heifers (12 HEX, 5 AAX) were killed on the 18th December.

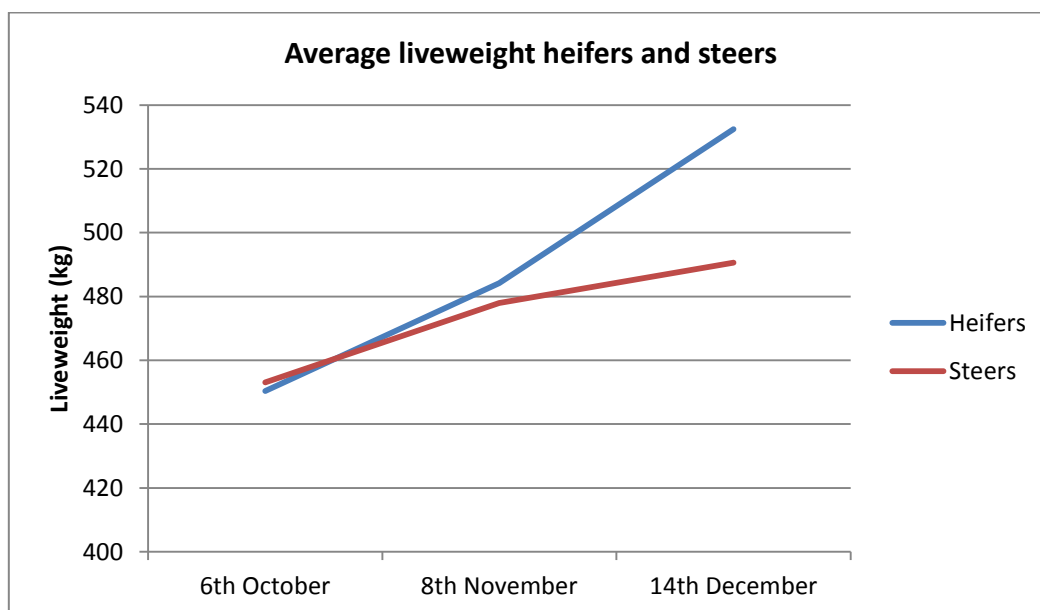


Heifer and Steer liveweight (kg)

		06/10/2017	08/11/2017	14/12/2017
High	Heifers	448	473	523
	Steers	440	475	481
Med	Heifers	463	488	539
	Steers	454	484	501
Low	Heifers	440	493	535
	Steers	465	475	491

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ADG Second Winter			
	High	Medium	Low
Heifer	1.102	1.177	1.358
Steer	0.588	0.607	0.404

Slaughter results

- The first batch of heifers graded well, with good carcass weight and conformation scores.
- Six of the heifers made an R- grade.
- Some heifers were slightly too fat (three 4+, two 5- and one 5=).

	Liveweight	Carcass weight	Age (months)	Kidney & channel fat	Conf Score	Fat Score
Heifers, 18/12/17	574 kg	282.7 kg	21.5	11 kg	O+	4=

Weanlings

- Calves were tagged for genotyping, weighted and dosed for worms and fluke mid-November. They were also clipped and drenched for lice. The calves on slats were sorted by breed within their stocking density groups to facilitate intake analysis in January.
- The feeding programme remains as *ad lib* silage and ~2kg concentrate/head/day.

	Weight at genotyping (Mid-Nov)	8 & 9 th December	ADG first winter
High	202	231	0.689
Medium	215	237	0.644
Low	204	235	0.700
Average	207	234	0.678

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- 52 animals remain under the 'poor' bracket. These are divided into two groups; a pen of sick calves (29) and a pen of poorer performing calves.
- 15 weanlings have died in total, giving a mortality rate of 5.9% which is particularly high.
- The condition of the poorer performing calves has improved over the housing period thus far. Some will be drafted back into their stocking density groups on slats.
- There is still a large difference in liveweight between the average of the good and poor calves (52kg). The lightest calves weigh just 114 and 130kg, while the heaviest calf is 340kg.

	24/10/2017	23/11/2017	9/12/2017
Good	210	216	244
Poor	170	168	192
Difference	40	48	52