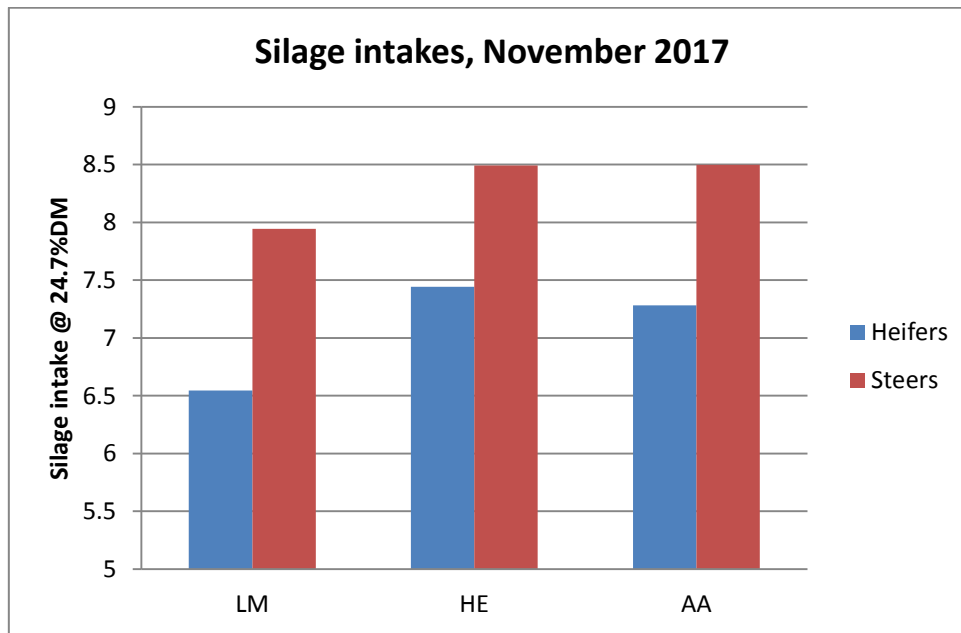


**Teagasc Johnstown Castle**  
**Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme**

**Update: 11-12-2017**

**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 (72 DMD).
- From the silage intakes, 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.



- All of the older cattle will be weighed this week.
- Heifers were body condition scored on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The target is to reach a BCS of 3.75 which should correlate to a 3+ fat score in factory.
- There are 12 Hereford and 5 Angus heifers to be killed Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. As expected the Limousin heifers are slower to fatten, with the majority receiving 3.25 BCS. The next kill date will be mid-January.

|      | AA | HE | LM |
|------|----|----|----|
| 3.0  | -  | -  | 2  |
| 3.25 | 13 | 9  | 31 |
| 3.5  | 17 | 13 | 2  |
| 3.75 | 5  | 12 | -  |

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***HEX heifer fit for kill.***



***LMX and HEX heifers not fit for kill.***

**Animal Performance: *Weanlings***

- The feeding programme remains as *ad lib* silage and ~2kg concentrate/head/day.
- The poor weanlings have picked up somewhat in terms of health and performance.
- 52 animals remain under the 'poor' bracket. 15 weanlings have died in total, giving a mortality rate of 5.9% which is particularly high.
- Some of the stronger weanlings will be drafted out to the slats with the rest of the trial animals from the straw shed in January.
- All weanlings will be weighed next week.