

# Teagasc Dairy Beef Research Programme

Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford

## Update: July 2020

With the warm temperatures and rainfall, growth has remained high across the farm for the month of July, averaging 70 kg DM/ha. A number of paddocks, both trial and commercial, were cut as surplus bales on the 31<sup>st</sup> July as they became too strong. The yearlings are performing well, gaining 0.90 kg/day, while the calves are gaining 0.77 kg/day. The remainder of the 2018 trial bullocks and 27 2018 spring born Friesian bullocks from the commercial herd were killed the end of July.

July 2020	
Total rainfall (ml)	82.1
Mean temperature (°C)	14.6

### Animal Performance:

#### 28-month old steers

- The bullocks were killed on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. They averaged 670 kg live weight, and gained an average 1.05 kg/day during the third season at grass.

Table 1. Steer slaughter results, July 2020

	Age (months)	LW (kg)	CW (kg)	KO%	Conf.	Conf. score	Fat.	Fat score
<b>High</b>	28.8	675	363.5	53.8	5.8	O=O+	9.6	3+/4-
<b>Medium</b>	28.8	660	354.5	53.7	5.8	O=O+	9.5	3+/4-
<b>Low</b>	28.6	680	362.5	53.3	5.5	O=O+	9.4	3+/4-

Table 2. Total steer slaughter results March – July 2020

	No. animals	Age (months)	LW (kg)	CW (kg)	KO%	Conf.	Conf. score	Fat.	Fat score
<b>AA</b>	37	25.2	654	326	49.8	4.5	O-/O=	8.7	3=/3+
<b>HE</b>	36	25.5	636	317	49.8	4.6	O-/O=	9.6	3+/4-
<b>LM</b>	27	27.8	667	352	52.7	6.2	O+	9.2	3+

#### Yearlings (18-month-old)

- The high stocking rate yearlings' growth rate has picked up since the drought, now averaging 0.82 kg/day for the second season at grass.
- The yearlings were weighed on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, and they received Spotinor pour-on for flies.
- The heifers and steers within the yearling groups have now been separated for grazing.
- The heifers will begin meal supplementation mid-August.

Table 3. Yearling weight and ADG

	Live weight (kg)		ADG second season (kg/day)
	Heifer	Steer	
<b>High</b>	382	406	0.82
<b>Medium</b>	392	410	0.99
<b>Low</b>	398	409	0.88

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## Spring 2020 calves

- The calves received pour-on (Spotinor) for flies on the 8<sup>th</sup> July.
- The calves were weighed and sorted into their treatment groups on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. They averaged 113 kg and have been grazing their allotted treatments since.
- Following faecal samples, the calves were dosed for coccidiosis (Chanox) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. They also received their clostridia booster vaccination (Tribovax 10) and weighed 129 kg.
- The calves have been reduced to 0.42 kg concentrates/day.

**Table 4. Calf live weight and ADG**

	LW 08/07/2020	LW 22/07/2020	ADG first season	ADG grazing trial plots
<i>PRG</i>	116	128	0.75	0.78
<i>PRG + Clover</i>	118	133	0.84	0.88
<i>PRG + Clover + Herb</i>	111	128	0.72	0.85

## Grassland Management

- Demand has reduced across all the stocking rate groups with the slaughter of the 28-month-old bullocks. Grass growth rate has averaged 70 kg DM/ha/day, which surpasses demand.
- The second cut silage was cut on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and averaged 3715 kg DM/ha.
- Post second cut silage harvest, the silage ground was spread with 150 kg KAN and received 3000 gal/acre slurry before being closed on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 with the aim to cut early September.
- On July 13<sup>th</sup>, a round of KAN was spread across the grazing paddocks at 65 kg/ha.
- Super P 16% was spread on the 20<sup>th</sup> July; rates of 45 to 125 kg/ha were applied dependent on the soil test results.
- Due to the reduction in demand and the increase in grass growth, a number of surplus paddocks, including some of the reseeded PRG and multispecies paddocks, were cut for surplus bales on the 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- The cattle have been grazing covers of 1950 kg DM/ha on average, grazing to heights of 4.39 cm.

**Table 5. Farm cover, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

	Farm cover	Growth/ha	Demand /ha	Grazing area	Silage cut later	Total LU	LU/ha	Days ahead
	Kg DM/ha	Kg DM/ha/day	Kg DM/ha/day	Ha	Ha			
<b>High</b>	544	105	61	6.70	6.76	50.4	5.37	9
<b>Med</b>	620	93	58	8.53	7.67	50.4	5.04	11
<b>Low</b>	649	99	51	9.21	8.24	50.4	4.45	13