

Grange dairy calf-to-beef system evaluation



- 57% of carcasses processed are of dairy origin
 - More animals failing to meet carcass specifications
 - Increasing demand for higher quality dairy-beef calves

Under 24-month steer system

Stocking rate: 2.8 LU/ha

120 calves - 12-24 months 120 calves - 0-12 months Two milk feeding treatments from 4 wks

4 L/calf/day8 L/calf/day

HIGH Angus

Sired by high carcass weight & conformation AA bulls

Holstein Friesian

Sired by top 4 EBI bulls

LOW Angus

Sired by low carcass weight & conformation AA bulls

4 L/calf from 4 wks

- 20 kg less milk replacer
- 25 kg more concentrate
- Same animal performance

€33 saving per calf

Physical, financial and environmental performance

S			HIGH AAX	LOW AAX
	Age at slaughter (mths)	22.8	21.8	21.8
	Carcass weight (kg)	300	305	300
	Carcass conformation	O -	0=	0=
	Carcass fat	3=	3+	3+
	Carcass output/ha (kg)	960	976	960
	CO ₂ eq per carcass kg	14.2	12.9	13.2
	Human edible protein ratio (kg/kg)	0.75	1.05	1.02
	Net margin (€/ha)	462	728	607

Take home message

- Using high carcass merit sires on the dairy herd will:
 - Improve profitability of beef farms
 - Reduce GHG emissions
 - Produce additional human edible protein