Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Programme

e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2017





Teagasc

e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2017

Authors Teagasc Specialist Service



Agriculture and Food Development Authority



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e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2017

Foreword

This year's analysis of the 2017 beef and sheep eProfit Monitors is made up of 2,159 beef farms and 922 sheep farms from across the country. It also looks at the eProfit Monitors from 980 beef and 211 sheep farms that completed data for both 2016 and 2017 and compares the differences in output, costs and profits on those farms from one year to the next.

Drystock farmers that have completed a Teagasc eProfit Monitor for 2017 should benchmark their farms' analysis with the enterprise in this booklet that best matches their own. To aid this we have included beef and sheep tables behind the back cover that you can fill in from your own analysis. By folding this out you can then compare your farms figures with any of the tables in the booklet.

Where the Top 1/3 of farmers figures are presented in the tables this refers to the Top 1/3 of farms within an enterprise when the farms were ranked on their gross margin per hectare excluding any premia payments. Gross margin excluding premia per hectare is an important indicator because it highlights the current level of technical efficiency at which the enterprise is operating as well as showing the potential for improvement. There is a high correlation between this figure and net profit per hectare.

The Appendix Tables include more detailed analysis of the different enterprises and show the range in both physical and financial performance that exists from the top to the bottom farms when they were ranked on gross margin excluding premia per hectare. They also have more detail on the breakdown of the variable and fixed costs per hectare for beef and sheep farms in 2017.

Suckling to Beef Farms 2017

Beef farms that have a suckler cow herd and where the progeny of the herd are brought through to slaughter.

Suckling to Beef Farms 2017

- The top 1/3 of farms generated a gross output of €1,932 per hectare compared to €1,334 on the average farms, a difference of €598 per hectare or 45%.
- The higher output on the top farms reflected a higher stocking rate (+0.41 LU/ha), a higher output per livestock unit (+48kg) and a higher output value per kg (+18c /kg LW).
- Output per hectare on the top 1/3 of farms was 855 kg or 39% higher (+242 kg) than on the average farm (613 kg per ha).
- Average suckler to beef farms had lower variable costs than the top farms at €662 versus €821 per hectare. However, as a percentage of gross output they accounted for 50% on the average farms compared to 43% of the output on the top farms.
- The gross margin was €1,112 per hectare on the top 1/3 of suckler to beef farms which was 60% higher or €441 per hectare higher than those on the average farms.
- The biggest variable cost on suckler to beef farms in 2017 was purchased forage and concentrate accounting for 38% or €252 per hectare of total variable costs. The top three variable costs of feed, fertiliser and contractor accounted for 75% of all variable costs in 2017.
- The average suckler to beef farm in 2017 generated a net profit of €145 per hectare excluding premia compared to €493 per hectare on the top 1/3 of farms.
- In real terms the top 1/3 of suckler to beef farms generated €16,495 more net profit before premia than the average of the group.

Table 1Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (620 Farms)

	Average	Тор 1/3	Top v Average
Physical			
Farm Size (cattle ha)	47.4	47.4	-0.30
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.91	2.32	+0.41
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	321	369	+48
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	613	855	+242
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€1,334	€1,932	+€598
Variable Costs	€662	€821	+€159
Gross Margin	€671	€1,112	+€441
Fixed Costs	€526	€619	+€93
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€145	€493	+€348
Total Premia *	€486	€489	+€3
Total Premia Retained *	130%	201%	+71%

Suckling to Beef Farms 2017



Suckling to Beef Variable Costs per Hectare 2017



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Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2017

Beef farms that have a suckler cow herd and where the progeny of the herd are sold as either weanlings or stores for finishing on another farm.

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Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2017

- The top 1/3 of producers in this system carried 23% more stock at a modest 1.87 LU per hectare versus 1.52 LU per hectare for the average farm. They also produced 30 kg LW per LU more than the average (318 kg v 288 kg).
- Gross output was €955 per hectare in the average group, 31% or €426 per hectare lower than the top 1/3 of farms (€1,381 per ha).
- The top 1/3 of farms based on output values achieved an average price per kilo LW of €2.32 compared to €2.18/kg LW on the average farms.
- Variable costs were €497 per hectare on the average farms or 10% lower than on the top 1/3. However, as a proportion of gross output they accounted for 52% and 40% of the output on the average and top 1/3 of farms, respectively.
- Average fertiliser costs, feed costs (purchased forage and concentrates) and contractor charges accounted for 72% or €356 per hectare of total variable costs in 2017.
- Gross margin per hectare on the top 1/3 of suckling to weanling/store farms was almost 81% higher when compared to the average farm. Top 1/3 of farms generated a gross margin of €830 per hectare compared to €458 on the average farm.
- The gross margin on the average farms was barely sufficient to cover all the fixed costs of €447 per hectare on these farms. This left a meagre net profit of €11 per hectare before premia on these farms resulting in them holding on to 102% of their premia.
- In contrast, fixed costs on the top 1/3 of suckling to weanling/store farms were €513 per hectare, leaving a net profit before premia of €318 per hectare.
- The top 1/3 of suckler to weanling/store farms generated €10,382 more in net profit before premia compared to
 the average farm in the group.

Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2017

Table 2	Profit Monitor	per hectare a	analysis ((1,026 Farms)
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	Average	Тор 1/3	Top v Average
Physical			
Farm Size (cattle ha)	32.4	33.6	+1.2
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.52	1.87	+0.35
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	288	318	+30
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	437	594	+157
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€955	€1,381	+€426
Variable Costs	€497	€551	+€54
Gross Margin	€458	€830	+€372
Fixed Costs	€447	€513	+€66
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€11	€318	+€309
Total Premia *	€500	€506	+€6
Total Premia Retained *	102%	163%	+61%



Suckling to Weanling / Store Variable Costs per Hectare 2017



Non-Breeding Beef Farms 2017

Beef farms that buy in calves, weanlings or stores that finish them on their farm or sell them as stores. Some of these farms may have suckler cows but they make up a small proportion of their herd.

Non-Breeding Beef Farms 2017

- The gross margin on the top 1/3 of non-breeding beef farms was €582 per hectare higher than the average (€1,352 versus €770 per ha).
- The higher gross margin was due to the higher level of output achieved on the top 1/3 of farms (gross output was €855 per ha higher on the top 1/3 of farms).
- The increased gross output on the top performing herds came from three key areas; a higher output per LU, a higher stocking rate and a higher value (9c) per kg liveweight sold.
- Output per LU was 81 kg higher than the average on the top 1/3 of farms (494 kg versus 413 kg per LU).
- Stocking rate was 0.44 LU per ha higher (2.22 LU per ha on top 1/3 of farms versus 1.78 LU per ha on the average farms).
- The top 1/3 of farms achieved a value of €2.19 per kg live-weight versus €2.10 per kg achieved on the average farms.
- Variable costs were €273 per hectare higher on the top 1/3 of farms but the higher output offset these costs (variable costs made up 44% of gross output on the top 1/3 versus 50% of gross output on the average farms).
- Purchased feed and concentrates accounted for 47% (€378/ha) of variable costs on non-breeding farms. When feed, fertiliser and contractor costs are combined they make up 81% of total variable costs.
- The average non-breeding beef farm made a net profit of €236 per hectare whereas the significantly higher gross output on the top 1/3 of non-breeding beef farms and better cost dilution resulted in a net profit of €714 per hectare before premia.

Table 3	Profit Monitor pe	r hectare anal	vsis (513 Farms)
			J ()

	Average	Тор 1/3	Top v Average
Physical			
Farm Size (cattle ha)	36.0	36.3	+0.3
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.78	2.22	+0.44
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	413	494	+81
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	735	1,097	+362
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€1,547	€2,402	+€855
Variable Costs	€777	€1,050	+€273
Gross Margin	€770	€1,352	+€582
Fixed Costs	€534	€638	+€104
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€236	€714	+€478
Total Premia *	€460	€452	-€8
Total Premia Retained *	152%	258%	+60%

Non-Breeding Beef Farms 2016



Non-Breeding Variable Costs per Hectare 2017



Comparison – 2016 v 2017 (Beef Farms)

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Where a farm completed an eProfit Monitor on their beef enterprise for both 2017 and 2016 they are included in this analysis. It includes both suckling and non-breeding beef enterprises. 2833

Comparison – 2016 v 2017 (Beef Farms)

- There was a slight increase in stocking rate (1.78 versus 1.73 LU per ha) and a slight increase in the output per LU (344 versus 336 kg per LU) which when combined, resulted in a 5% increase in output of beef produced per hectare (612 versus 581 kg per ha).
- With very little fluctuation in overall beef price between 2017 and 2016 the 5% rise in gross output value was as a result of an increase in kilograms of beef output per hectare (€1,308 versus €1,245 per ha).
- Variable costs rose marginally in 2017 by €15 per hectare compared to the 2016 figures. Feed and fertiliser costs varied by very little year on year with feed prices easing slightly in 2017 and fertiliser prices rising in the second half of the year.
- With an increase in gross output and variable costs per hectare similar for both years, the gross margin per hectare increased to €660/ha in 2017 compared to €612 per hectare in 2016 (8% increase).
- Fixed costs per hectare were up only slightly (€12/ha) in 2017 when compared to 2016.
- Net profit excluding premia in 2017 rose by €36 per hectare on the recorded beef farms (€145 versus €109). Premia received between both years remained almost static at €492 and €490/ha in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Table 4Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (980 Farms)Comparison of costs and income on the same cattle farms over two years

	2016	2017	% Change
Physical			
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.73	1.78	+3%
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	336	344	+2%
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	581	612	+5%
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€1,245	€1,308	+5%
Variable Costs	€633	€648	+2%
Gross Margin Excl. Premia	€612	€660	+8%
Fixed Costs	€503	€515	+2%
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€109	€145	+33%
Total Premia*	€492	€490	-
Premia Retained*	122%	130%	+8%



Lowland Sheep Farms 2017

Sheep farms that have lowland flocks of ewes. The majority of which lamb in mid-season and the lambs are finished on the farm or sold as stores.

Lowland Sheep Farms 2017

- The top 1/3 of farms had a stocking rate of 2.3 ewes per hectare higher and produced an extra 4.3 lambs per hectare (extra 0.1 lambs extra per ewe) when compared to the average farms.
- The combined effect of the higher stocking rate, higher weaning rate and higher lamb price contributed to gross output being €507 per hectare higher for the top 1/3 of farms (€1,475 versus €968 per ha).
- At €947 per hectare the gross margin for the top 1/3 of farms was €431 per hectare higher than the average (€516 per ha).
- Net profit (excluding premia payments) at €443 per hectare for the top 1/3 of lowland sheep farms was €349 per hectare higher than for the average farms (€94 per ha).
- Per ewe, variable costs were €8 lower and fixed costs were €8 lower for the top 1/3 of farms compared to the average farms.
- The gross margin per ewe on the top 1/3 of farms was €101 which was €33 per ewe higher than what was achieved on the average farms (€68 per ewe).
- Purchased feed remains the single biggest variable cost on sheep farms and at €22/ewe this equates to almost €14 per lamb weaned.
- The cost of producing a lamb was €71 and €87 for the top 1/3 and average farms, respectively.

Table 5Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (631 Farms)

	Average	Top 1/3	Top v Average
Physical Performance			
Flock size	186	239	+53
Stocking rate (LU/ha)	1.63	2.07	+0.44
Ewes/ha	7.3	9.6	+2.3
Lambs reared per ewe to ram	1.43	1.53	+0.1
Lambs reared per hectare	10.4	14.7	+4.3
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross output	€968	€1,475	+€507
Variable costs	€452	€528	+€76
Gross margin	€516	€947	+€431
Fixed costs	€422	€504	+€82
Net profit Excl. premia	€94	€443	+€349
Total Premia *	€459	€475	-€16
Premia Retained*	120%	193%	+73%
Financial (€ / Ewe)			
Gross Output	€131	€156	+€25
Variable Costs	€63	€55	-€8
Gross Margin	€68	€101	+€33
Fixed Costs	€62	€54	-€8
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€6	€47	+€41
Average Lamb Price \in / head	€97	€103	+€6

Lowland Sheep Farms 2017



Lowland Sheep Variable Costs per Ewe 2017



Hill Sheep Farms 2017

Sheep farms that have mountain or hill sheep flocks of ewes. Lambs are finished on the farm or sold as stores.

Hill Sheep Farms 2017

- The top 1/3 of hill sheep farms had an extra €31 gross output per ewe compared to the average hill sheep farm (€100 versus €69 per ewe).
- The higher gross output per ewe came from a combination of a higher number of lambs reared per ewe and a higher average lamb price.
- The top 1/3 of hill farms reared 1.18 lambs per ewe put to the ram whereas the average reared 1.01.
- The average lamb price on the top 1/3 of hill farms was €11 higher compared to the price achieved on the average of hill farms (€83 versus €72 per lamb).
- Variable costs per ewe were €3 per ewe lower for the top 1/3 of farms compared to those on the average (€39 versus €42 per ewe).
- Feed and fertiliser made up over 50% of the total variable costs per ewe (€25 of the €42).
- Gross margin per ewe was €34 higher for the top 1/3 of hill farms compared to the average (€61 versus €27 per ewe).
- Fixed costs were €8 lower per ewe lower on the top 1/3 of farms compared to the average (€45 versus €53).
- The top 1/3 of hill sheep farms had a net profit (excluding premia) of €16 per ewe, whereas the average farm made a net loss of €26 per ewe.

Table 6Profit Monitor per ewe analysis (291 Farms)

	Average	Top 1/3	Top v Average
Physical Performance			
Flock size	152	173	+21
Lambs reared per ewe to ram	1.01	1.18	+0.17
Average Lamb Price € / head	€72	€83	+€11
Financial (€ / Ewe)			
Gross Output	€ 69	€100	+€31
Purchased Feed	€ 17	€14	-€3
Fertiliser & Lime	€8	€8	-
Veterinary	€7	€6	-€1
Contractor	€6	€6	-
Other Variable Costs	€4	€5	+€1
Total Variable Costs	€42	€39	-€3
Gross Margin	€27	€61	+€34
Total Fixed Costs	€53	€45	-€8
Net Profit Excl. Premia	-€26	€16	+€42

Hill Sheep Farms 2016

Hill Sheep Farms Gross Margin Per Ewe 201





Hill Sheep Variable Costs per Ewe 2017

Comparison – 2016 v 2017 (Sheep Farms)

Where a farm completed an eProfit Monitor on their sheep enterprise for both 2016 and 2017 they are included in this analysis. It only includes lowland sheep farms.

- Gross output per hectare increased by €13 (1%) from 2016 to 2017.
- The increase in gross output was due to a slight increase in stocking rate (3%), lambs reared per ewe joined (3%) and lamb price (2%).
- Variable costs reduced by 1% when compared to 2016 (€485 versus €490 per ha). Feed and fertiliser costs reduced slightly, whereas veterinary and other costs rose slightly. Contractor cost remained the same.
- Gross margin increased by 3% from €581/ha in 2016 to €599/ha in 2017.
- Fixed costs per hectare increased by 2% from €441 in 2016 to €449 in 2017.
- The increases in stocking rate, lambs reared per ewe joined and lamb price when coupled with slight changes in costs lead net profit (excl. premia) to rise by 8% in 2017. (€140/ha vs €150/ha).

Table 7Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (211 Farms)Comparison of costs and income on the same sheep
farms over two years

	2016	2017	% Change
Physical			
Stocking rate LU/ha	1.77	1.82	+3%
Ewes to ram	211	214	+1%
Lambs reared per ewe joined to ram	1.41	1.45	+3%
Lambs reared per hectare	11.3	11.4	+1%
Ewe lambs retained	43	47	+9%
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Average lamb price	€99	€101	+2%
Gross Output	€1,071	€1,084	+1%
Variable Costs	€490	€485	-1%
Gross Margin	€581	€599	+3%
Fixed Costs	€441	€449	+2%
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€140	€150	+8%
Total Premia*	€400	€418	+4%
Premia Retained*	135%	136%	+1%

Variable Costs per Hectare - Lowland Farms 2016 vs 2017



Appendix Tables

These tables include a breakdown of the different beef and sheep enterprises when they are ranked on their gross margins per ha excluding premia. More details are also given on some of the variable and fixed costs for beef and sheep farms.



Suckling to Beef farms 2017 – per hectare analysis (620 Farms)

	Тор 10%	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical					
Farm Size (cattle ha)	44.7	47.4	47.7	46.2	43.4
Stocking Rate LU/ha	2.60	2.32	1.91	1.55	1.48
Liveweight Produced kg/LU	399	369	321	261	247
Liveweight Produced kg/ha	1,038	855	613	405	366
Financial €/ha					
Gross Output Value	€2,362	€1,932	€1,334	€821	€678
Variable Costs	€902	€821	€662	€559	€663
Gross Margin	€1,460	€1,112	€671	€262	€15
Fixed Costs	€644	€619	€526	€425	€474
Net Profit excl. Premia	€816	€493	€145	-€163	-€460
Total Premia *	€539	€489	€486	€477	€454
Total Premia Retained *	251%	201%	130%	66%	-1%

Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2017 – per hectare analysis (1,026 Farms)

	Top 10%	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical					
Farm Size (cattle ha)	34.2	33.6	32.4	30.7	28.2
Stocking Rate LU/ha	2.13	1.87	1.52	1.23	1.23
Liveweight Produced kg/LU	360	318	288	251	244
Liveweight Produced kg/ha	766	594	437	309	300
Financial €/ha					
Gross Output Value	€1,826	€1,381	€955	€595	€527
Variable Costs	€620	€551	€497	€489	€623
Gross Margin	€1,206	€830	€458	€106	-€96
Fixed Costs	€553	€513	€447	€399	€435
Net Profit excl. Premia	€653	€318	€11	-€293	-€530
Total Premia *	€503	€506	€500	€503	€557
Total Premia Retained *	230%	163%	102%	42%	5%

Non-Breeding Farms 2017 – per hectare analysis (513 Farms)

	Тор 10%	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical					
Farm Size (cattle ha)	37.0	36.3	36.0	31.7	27.5
Stocking Rate LU/ ha	2.45	2.22	1.78	1.36	1.36
Liveweight Produced kg/LU	604	494	413	333	324
Liveweight Produced kg/ha	1,481	1,097	735	453	441
Financial €/ha					
Gross Output Value	€3,285	€2,402	€1,547	€848	€697
Variable Costs	€1,336	€1,050	€777	€616	€724
Gross Margin	€1,949	€1,352	€770	€232	-€26
Fixed Costs	€796	€638	€534	€461	€506
Net Profit excl. Premia	€1,154	€714	€236	-€229	-€532
Total Premia *	€470	€452	€460	€464	€479
Total Premia Retained *	346%	258%	151%	51%	-11%

Lowland Sheep 2017 -
per hectare analysis (631 farms)

	Top 10%	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical Performance					
Flock size	268	239	186	131	113
Stocking rate(LU/ha)	2.30	2.07	1.63	1.20	1.14
Ewes/ha	11.2	9.6	7.3	5.1	4.7
Lambs reared per ewe to ram	1.52	1.53	1.43	1.35	1.30
Lambs reared per hectare	17.0	14.7	10.4	6.9	6.1
Financial Performance €/ha					
Gross output	€1,822	€1,475	€968	€522	€405
Variable costs	€532	€528	€452	€372	€417
Gross margin	€1,290	€947	€516	€150	-€12
Fixed costs	€548	€504	€422	€326	€328
Net profit excl premia	€742	€443	€94	-€176	-€340
All Premia*	€524	€475	€459	€451	€461
% Premia* retained	242%	193%	120%	61%	26%
Average lamb price €/ head	€106	€103	€97	€91	€86

Appendix Table 5

Major Costs per hectare on Suckling Farms 2017 (1,646 Farms)

	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3
Total Variable Costs	€653	€559	€515
Of which:			
Feed	€227	€183	€163
Fertiliser & Lime	€140	€115	€97
Contractor	€111	€112	€120
Vet/Meds/AI	€93	€79	€72
Other	€81	€70	€63
Total Fixed Costs	€553	€477	€409
Of which:			
Land Rental	€102	€76	€58
Machinery Running	€94	€78	€63
Hired Labour	€58	€49	€41
Depreciation	€28	€24	€21
Interest	€26	€25	€21
Other	€245	€224	€205

Major Costs per hectare on Non Breeding Farms 2017 (513 Farms)

	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3
Total Variable Costs	€1050	€777	€616
Of which:			
Feed	€567	€378	€270
Fertiliser & Lime	€164	€131	€102
Contractor	€125	€117	€115
Vet/Meds/AI	€80	€61	€53
Other	€114	€88	€77
Total Fixed Costs	€638	€534	€461
Of which:			
Land Rental	€119	€90	€77
Machinery Running	€111	€90	€77
Hired Labour	€59	€52	€37
Depreciation	€43	€36	€26
Interest	€43	€31	€21
Other	€263	€235	€223

Appendix Table 7

Major costs per ewe on Lowland Sheep Farms 2017 (631 farms)

	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3
Total Variable Costs	€528	€452	€372
Of which			
Purchased Feed	€179	€156	€126
Fertiliser and Lime	€115	€94	€77
Veterinary	€82	€70	€59
Contractor	€86	€75	€61
Other	€66	€57	€49
Total Fixed Costs	€504	€422	€325
Of which			
Machinery Running	€75	€59	€43
Labour	€33	€20	€8
Land Lease	€54	€51	€42
Depreciation Buildings	€31	€23	€13
Depreciation Machinery	€37	€29	€23
Repairs & Maintenance	€55	€49	€39
Interest	€21	€18	€10
Other	€198	€173	€147



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BEEF PROFIT MONITOR FIGURES

Physical

Farm Size (cattle ha)..... Stocking Rate LU/ha Liveweight Produced kg/LU. Liveweight Produced kg/ha .

Financial €/ha

Gross Output Value	
Variable Costs	
Gross Margin	
Fixed Costs	
Net Profit excl. Premia	
Total Premia	
Total Premia Retained (%)	

SHEEP PROFIT MONITOR FIGURES

Physical Flock size Stocking rate(LU/ha)..... Ewes/ha.... Lambs reared per ewe to ram

Lambs reared per hectare.....

Financial € per Ewe / ha

Gross output
Variable costs
Gross margin
Fixed costs
Net Profit excl. Premia

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