

TIPPERARY DAIRY CALF TO BEEF FARM UPDATE

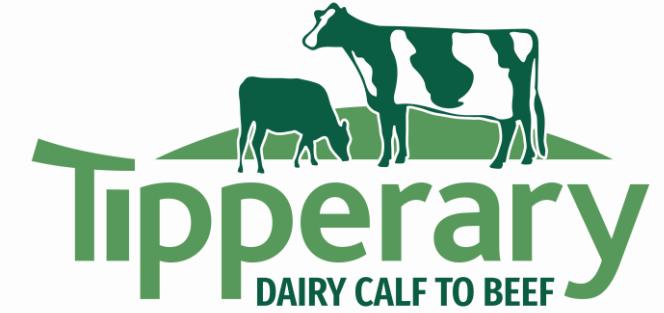
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Teagasc Technician

DAIRYBEEF 500
CONFERENCE

Thursday
29 January

Ballykisteen Hotel,
Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary

Ballyvadin Beef Farm Ltd



- Established in 2022
- Standalone commercial beef unit
 - Dairy and beef integration
 - Shinagh Estates and Dawn Meats
- Full capital, labour and depreciation costs
- Demonstration calf to beef farm



Farm Structure

- 112ha beef and tillage farm converted to grassland
 - Additional 22ha leased commencing 2026
 - 127ha
- Spring b
- To date (



Farm Focus

- Focus on a profitable system
 - Good farm practice
 - Animal Health and welfare
 - Genetics
 - Grassland management
 - Labour efficiency
 - Reduced anthelmintics
 - Dairy beef integration

Knowledge Transfer

- Open day – 22nd July 2026



Economics 2025

- **12 t DM/ha** grass grown
 - 7.8 t grazed, 4.2 t grass silage
- Mortality **1.3%**
- Net farm profit **€137,811**
- Return on labour **€226,447**
- **3400 hours** worked
 - Profit **€66.60/hour** worked
- Produce a kg of carcass **€5.36**
 - Includes labour, capital and land charge



Farm Performance



	Steer	Heifer	Steer	Heifer
Birth year	2023		2024	
Number	200	108	177	120
Carcass weight (kg)	305	254	316	270
Carcass Grade	0=	0=	0+	0+
Carcass Fat Score	3=	3+	3=	3+
Age at finishing (months)	22.3	20.6	21	20.2
€/kg	6.10	5.62	7.60	7.90

Calf sourcing – Dairy Farm



- 7 source dairy farms
 - Carbery joint programme monitor farms
- Produce high quality, high CBV, healthy calf
- Born before the 31st of March
- Ensure adequate colostrum provided to all calves – colostrum test
- A healthy calf
 - >14 days of age
 - No signs of scour
 - Alert and bright
- Administer Pi3 intranasal vaccine 5 days prior to movement
- Adequate weight for age

Weight for age guide

For every 1 kg increase in calf arrival (purchase) weight, carcass weight at slaughter increased by 1.1 kg.

Age	Minimum weight on arrival to Tipperary
14-18 days	38 kg
19-23 days	41 kg
24-28 days	44 kg
29-33 days	47 kg
34 days+	Min. 0.6 kg ADG thereafter

Calf Sourcing – Beef Farm

- A high quality, high CBV, healthy dairy beef calf
- Calves to be AI bred from high DBI bulls
- Purchase all calves that reach specifications
- Provide and organise transport
- Weigh and assess all calves on arrival
- Planning ahead - 2027

Table 2: Sire Specifications

	Carcass Weight	Conformation
Early Maturing Sires	>12kg	>0.8
Late Maturing Sire	>24kg	>1.7
Heifer – Bull option	>9kg	>0.7

Calf Movement



Communication is key

Friday	Text from Dairy farmers expected numbers
Monday	Haulier confirmed
Wednesday	Arrival, weight, movement certs
Thursday	Data on ICBF
Friday	Payment value calculated
Monday	Payment to dairy farmer

Calf price data for dairy bred (dairy dam) calves traded in marts

			Calves traded between 24 Feb - 02 Mar				
Sire Breed	Sex	Age range	Number of Calves	Average Age (days)	Average Price (€)	Number with Recorded Weight	Average Weight (kg)
Angus	M	<21 days	647	17	242	309	53
		21-42 days	755	26	301	453	59
	F	<21 days	563	17	191	288	50
		21-42 days	785	26	227	455	55
Aubrac	M	<21 days	9	16	232	1	58
		21-42 days	14	31	263	9	55
	F	<21 days	12	16	147	10	49
		21-42 days	24	26	226	17	47
Belgian Blue	M	<21 days	150	17	308	56	55
		21-42 days	125	25	380	57	65
	F	<21 days	158	17	272	77	52

Calf Pricing 2026

Gender

Male €248?
Female €238?

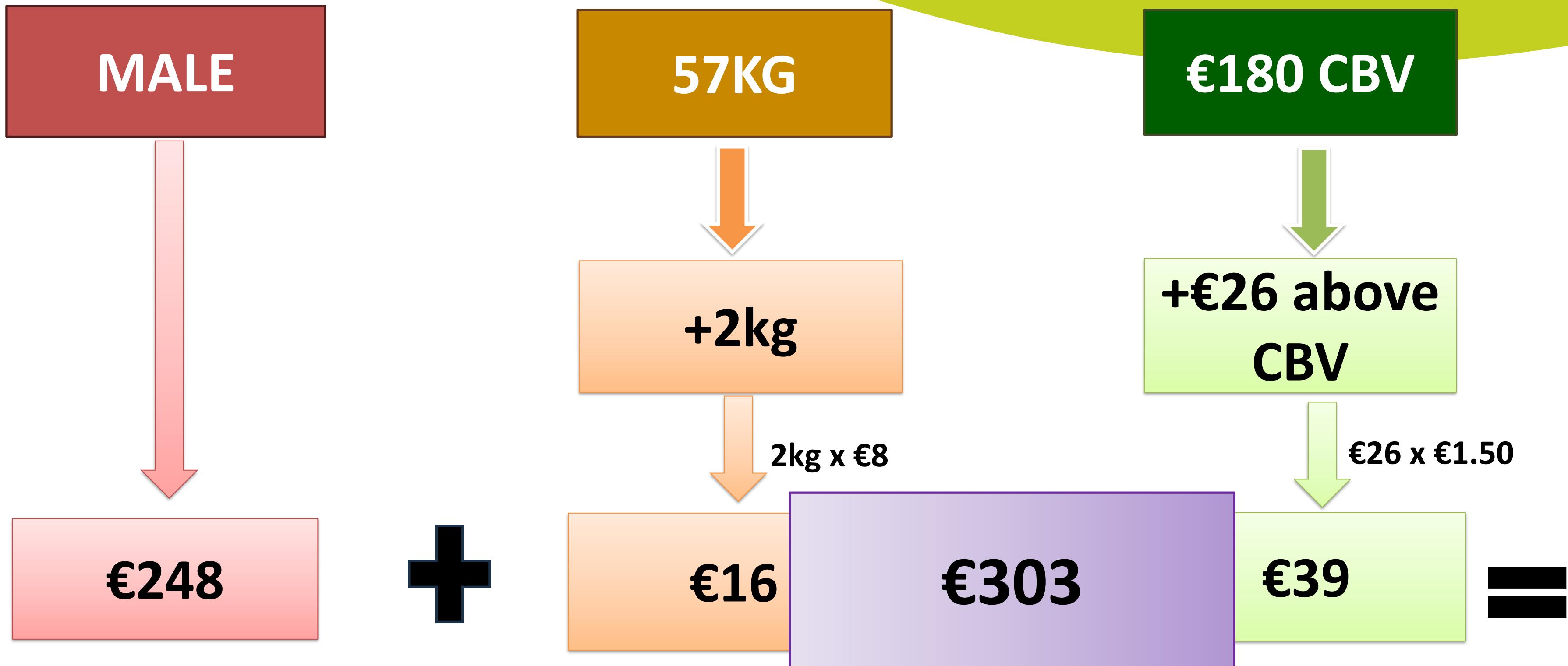
Weight

55kg
+/- €8/kg

CBV Value

€154
+/- €1.50/unit

Example Male, 57kg, €180CBV



Calf Intake

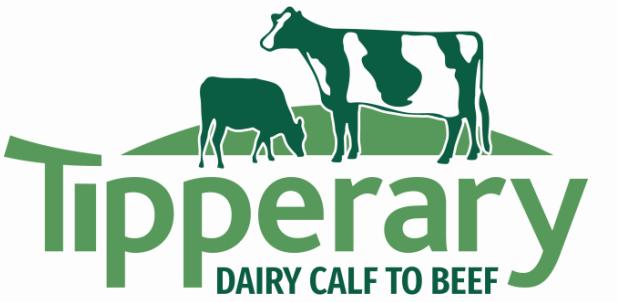


	2023	2024	2025
No. of calves	325	335	381
Age (days)	21	23	24
Source farms	4	7	7
Arrival (kg)	45	47	47
Milk powder (kg)	30	31	34
Weaning (kg)	80	86	91
Weaning (days)	72	74	83
Mortality (%)	0.9	0.8	1.0
Dairy x dairy (%)	14	11	2.8
CBV (€)	132	141	178

Plan for 2026

- 420 calves
- 9 source farms
- Pricing
 - Base ???
 - Weight €8/kg
 - CBV €1.50/unit
- Open day – 22nd July 2026





Thank you for listening!

