

# Teagasc Dairy Beef Research Programme

## Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford

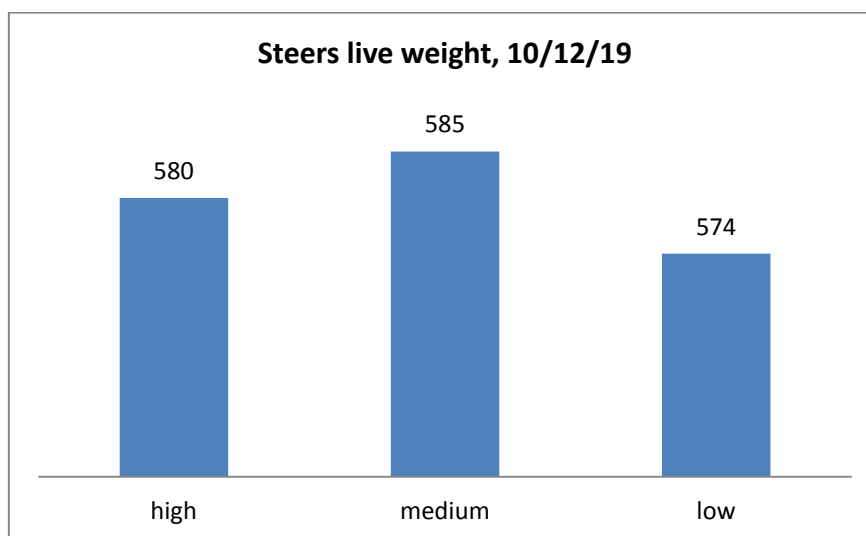
**Update: December 2019**

### Animal Performance:

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#### **21 month old heifers & steers**

- The remaining 27 heifers were weighed on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and averaged 492 kg. These are currently under fit, with a number of them also being too light. The majority will be killed after Christmas.
- The heifers are being fed *ad lib* silage (69.4 DMD) plus 5 kg of 14% beef finisher concentrate.
- The steers were also weighed on the 10<sup>th</sup> December; they averaged 580 kg. They remain on *ad lib* silage only (69.4 DMD).
- After Christmas, the second cut silage pit will be opened; the DMD of this pit is only 63, therefore the steers may have to be introduced to some concentrates depending on their intake and performance in order to keep them gaining 0.5 kg/day for the rest of the indoor period.
- Two sets of group winter intakes were performed in December. The results show that, on average, the steers are consuming 8.2 kg DM/head/day.



#### **Spring born calves**

- The yearlings were reweighed on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and averaged 258 kg, gaining 0.65 kg/day.
- They are being fed 2.5 kg concentrate/head/day alongside silage (69.4 DMD).
- From the winter intakes conducted in December, the calves, on average, are consuming 6.0 kg DM/head/day. Of this, 3.8 kg is silage DM.
- There have been no major illnesses; a few yearlings became lame. They were treated, put on a straw bed, and then returned to their pen once recovered.