

## **BETTER Farm Update April 2019**

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At the time of writing (March 15<sup>th</sup>) lambing on the lowland flocks is progressing well with the only major issue being broken weather conditions hampering the turnout of ewes and lambs. However, a relatively good long range forecast should ease these issues in the coming week. Grass supplies across the farms are good, which is a welcome change from this time last year. The average farm covers on most of the lowland farms are in excess of 650 kg DM/Ha at turnout. During early April the lowland flocks will be pushing to establish grazing groups and get the grazing rotation into full swing as well as applying a further round of fertilizer.

The flock in Co. Roscommon lambled a small proportion of the ewes in early January and these lambs were weighed at the start of March with the average growth rate to 7 weeks of age at 300 g/day. These lambs will be monitored carefully from late March/early April to begin drafting for sale at approximately 40kg live weight. Given the high costs associated with this system it will be important to draft lambs as soon as they are fit to be drafted.