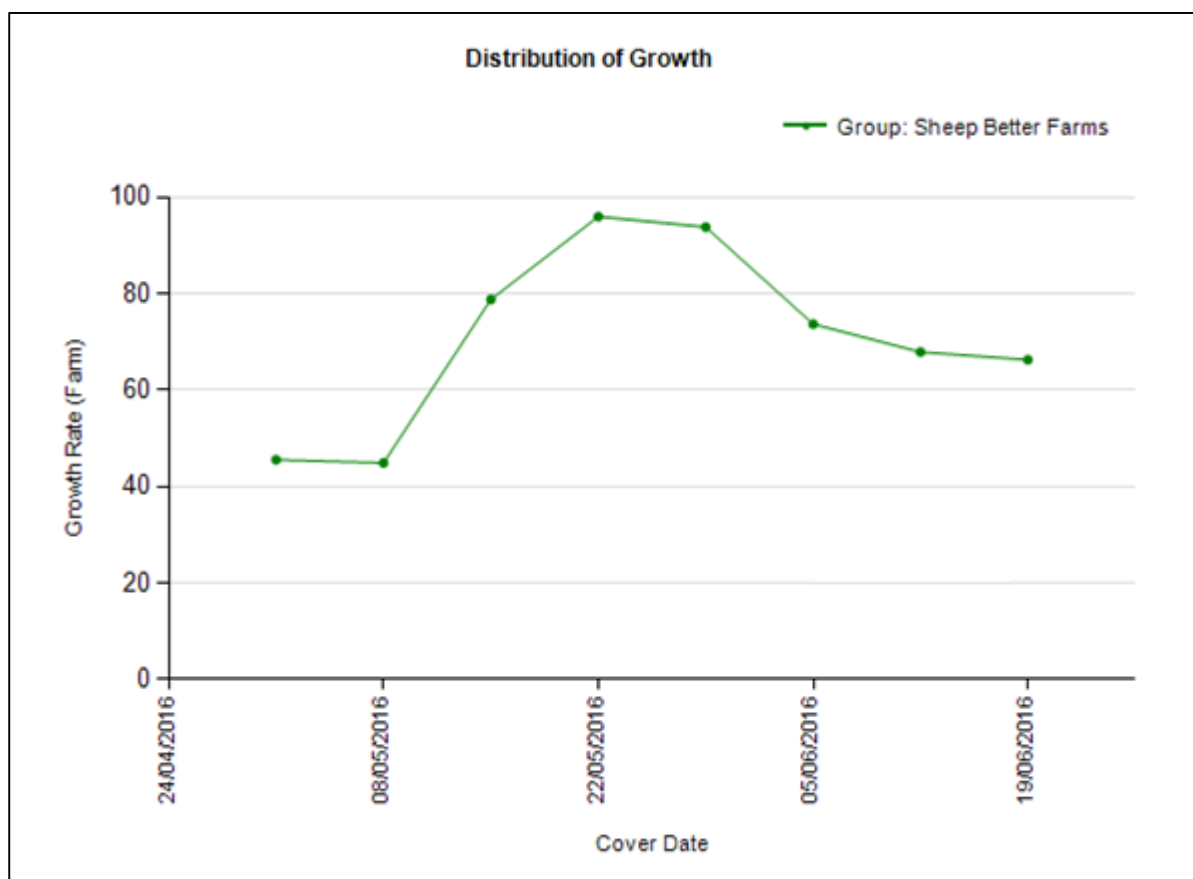


BETTER Farm update July

By Ciaran Lynch & Frank Campion

Teagasc AGRIC

The lowland flocks began weaning the first batches from mid-June, all lambs on the farms will be weaned by early July. Once weaned lambs will be grazed to a residual of 5.5 cm on grazing paddocks with the dry ewes used to remove the excess. Average grass growth during May and June is shown in Figure 1. Many of the farms with many grew in excess of 100kg/DM per day. On average grass growth some 20 kg/DM/day higher than the same period the previous year. To maintain sward quality additional paddocks were dropped out of the grazing rotation and harvested for silage. This increased the daily grass demand to an average of 6 kg/DM per day on the grazing block. The additional paddocks dropped will also provide greater access to aftergrass for lambs post weaning.



Results from the FECPAK analysis from samples sent in from the farms indicated that PGE worm burdens remained low in late May into early June with the dry conditions. However, in the latter half of the month counts of Strongyles rose rapidly exceeding 500 eggs per gram in groups on a number of the farms. In response the farmers treating lambs pre weaning with either a group 2 –LV or 3-ML product.