Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Programme

# Teagasc e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2016





AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Teagasc

# e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2016

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Agriculture and Food Development Authority



#### **Table of Contents**

Foreword	iv
Suckler to Beef Farms 2016	1
Suckler to Weanling / Store Farms 2016	5
Non-Breeding Beef Farms 2016	9
Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Beef Farms)	13
Lowland Sheep Farms 2016	17
Hill Sheep Farms 2016	21
Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Sheep Farms)	25
Appendix Tables	29

Acknowledgements

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#### e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2016

# Foreword

This year's analysis of the 2016 beef and sheep eProfit Monitors is made up of 1,213 beef farms and 435 sheep farms from across the country. It also looks at the eProfit Monitors from 303 beef and 55 sheep farms that completed data for both 2015 and 2016 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 2016 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 2016.

Pearse Kelly, Head of Drystock Knowledge Transfer

# Suckling to Beef Farms 2016

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

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### **Suckling to Beef Farms 2016**

- The top 1/3 of farms generated a gross output of €2,035 per hectare compared to €1,441 on the average farms, a difference of €594 per hectare or 41%.
- The higher output on the top farms reflected a higher stocking rate (+0.40 LU/ha), a higher output per livestock unit (+41kg) and a higher output value per kg (+10c /kg LW).
- Output per hectare on the top 1/3 of farms was 873 kg or 35% higher (+228 kg) than on the average farm (645 kg per ha).
- Average suckler to beef farms had lower variable costs than the top farms at €714 versus €866 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 €1,169 per hectare on the top 1/3 of suckler to beef farms which was 61% higher or €442 per hectare higher than those on the average farms.
- The biggest variable cost on suckler to beef farms in 2016 was purchased forage and concentrate accounting for 35% or €252 per hectare of total variable costs.
- The average suckler to beef farm in 2016 generated a net profit of €185 per hectare excluding premia compared to €563 per hectare on the top 1/3 of farms.

#### Table 1Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (318 Farms)

	Average	Top 1/3	Top v Average
Physical			
Farm Size (cattle ha)	47.4	43.6	-3.80
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.90	2.30	+0.40
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	339	380	+41
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	645	873	+228
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€1,441	€2035	+€594
Variable Costs	€714	€866	+€152
Gross Margin	€727	€1169	+€442
Fixed Costs	€542	€606	+€64
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€185	€563	+€378
Total Premia *	€518	€539	+€21
Total Premia Retained *	136%	204%	+68%

### **Suckling to Beef Farms 2016**



#### Suckling to Beef Variable Costs per Hectare 2016



# Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2016

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.

## **Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2016**

- The top 1/3 of producers in this system carried 23% more stock at 1.92 LU per hectare versus 1.56 LU per hectare for the average. They also produced 31 kg per LU more than the average (328 kg v 297 kg).
- Gross output was €998 per hectare in the average group, 29% or €414 per hectare lower than the top 1/3 of farms (€1,412 per ha).
- Variable costs were €550 per hectare on the average farms or 9% lower than on the top 1/3. However, as a proportion of output they accounted for 55% and 43% of the output on the average and top 1/3 of farms, respectively.
- Average fertiliser costs and feed costs (purchased forage and concentrates) accounted for 48% or €265 per hectare of total variable costs in 2016.
- Gross margin per hectare on the top 1/3 of suckling to weanling/store farms was almost 80% higher when compared to the average farm. Top 1/3 of farms generated a gross margin of €805 per hectare compared to €448 on the average farm.
- The low gross margin on the average farms was not sufficient to cover all the fixed costs of €484 per hectare. This had the effect of generating a net loss of €36 per hectare before premia on these farms resulting in them holding on to 93% of their premia.
- In contrast, fixed costs on the top 1/3 of suckling to weanling/store farms were €547 per hectare, leaving a net profit before premia of €258 per hectare.

6

## **Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2016**

#### Table 2 Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (596 Farms)

	Average	Тор 1/3	Top v Average
Physical			
Farm Size (cattle ha)	32.1	33.9	+1.8
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.56	1.92	+0.36
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	297	328	+31
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	464	629	+165
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€998	€1,412	+€414
Variable Costs	€550	€607	+€57
Gross Margin	€448	€805	+€357
Fixed Costs	€484	€547	+€63
Net Profit Excl. Premia	-€36	€258	+€294
Total Premia *	€535	€535	€0
Total Premia Retained *	93%	148%	+55%

### **Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2016**



#### Suckling to Weanling / Store Variable Costs per Hectare 2016



8

# Non-Breeding Beef Farms 2016

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 2016**

- The gross margin on the top 1/3 of non-breeding beef farms was €533 per hectare higher than the average (€1,203 versus €670 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 €752 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 per kg liveweight sold.
- Output per LU was 56 kg higher than the average on the top 1/3 of farms (446 kg versus 390 kg per LU).
- Stocking rate was 0.45 LU per ha higher (2.22 LU per ha on top 1/3 of farms versus 1.77 LU per ha on the average farms).
- The top 1/3 of farms achieved a value of €2.20 per kg live-weight versus €2.07 per kg achieved on the average farms.
- Variable costs were €219 per hectare higher on the top 1/3 of farms but the higher output offset these costs (variable costs made up 45% of output on the top 1/3 versus 53% of output on the average farms).
- Purchased feed and concentrates accounted for 43% (€327/ha) of variable costs on non-breeding farms.
- The average non-breeding beef farm made a net profit of €128 per hectare whereas the significantly higher gross output on the top 1/3 of non-breeding beef farms resulted in a net profit of €522 per hectare before premia.

Table 3	Profit Monitor per	hectare analy	/sis (299 Farms)
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	Average	Тор 1/3	Top v Average
Physical			
Farm Size (cattle ha)	35.4	40.2	+4.8
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.77	2.22	+0.45
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	390	446	+56
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	691	991	+300
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€1,427	€2,179	+€752
Variable Costs	€757	€976	+€219
Gross Margin	€670	€1,203	+€533
Fixed Costs	€542	€681	+€139
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€128	€522	+€394
Total Premia *	€491	€537	+€46
Total Premia Retained *	126%	197%	+71%

## Non-Breeding Beef Farms 2016



#### Non-Breeding Variable Costs per Hectare 2016



# Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Beef Farms)

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Where a farm completed an eProfit Monitor on their beef enterprise for both 2016 and 2015 they are included in this analysis. It includes both suckling and non-breeding beef enterprises. 1823

### Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Beef Farms)

- There was a slight increase in stocking rate in 2016(1.86 versus 1.80 LU per ha) and a slight increase in the output per LU (355 versus 348 kg per LU) which combined, resulted in a 6% increase in output of beef produced per hectare (661 versus 626 kg per ha).
- The 6% increase in beef output per ha was offset by a lower beef price in 2016 versus 2015 which resulted in the gross output only rising by 2% in value (€1,434 versus €1,406 per ha).
- Variable costs only rose marginally by €19 per hectare compared to the 2015 figures. Reflecting the fact that feed and fertiliser prices were similar with where they had been in the previous year.
- With similar gross outputs and variable costs per hectare for both years, the gross margin per hectare is broadly similar at €691 in 2016 compared to €682 per hectare in 2015 (1% increase).
- Fixed costs per hectare were also the similar for both 2016 and 2015.
- Net profit excluding premia in 2016 only rose by €11 per hectare on these beef farms (€143 versus €132).
   Premia received did however rise by €50 per hectare in 2016

## Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Beef Farms)

Table 4Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (303 Farms)Comparison of costs and income on the same cattle farms over two years

	2015	2016	% Change
Physical			
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	1.80	1.86	+4%
Liveweight Produced (kg/LU)	348	355	+2%
Liveweight Produced (kg/ha)	626	661	+6%
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross Output Value	€1,406	€1,434	+2%
Variable Costs	€724	€743	+3%
Gross Margin Excl. Premia	€682	€691	+1%
Fixed Costs	€550	€548	-
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€132	€143	+8%
Total Premia*	€488	€538	+10%
Premia Retained*	127%	127%	



Variable Costs per Hectare - All Cattle Farms 2015 vs 2016

# Lowland Sheep Farms 2016

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 2016**

- The top 1/3 of farms had a stocking rate of 2.0 ewes per hectare higher and produced and extra 0.14 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 €462 per hectare higher for the top 1/3 of farms (€1,478 versus €1,016 per ha).
- At €909 per hectare the gross margin for the top 1/3 of farms was €384 per hectare higher than the average (€525 per ha).
- Net profit (excluding premia payments) at €355 per hectare for the top 1/3 of lowland sheep farms was €265 per hectare higher than for the average farms (€90 per ha).
- Per ewe, variable costs were €5 lower and fixed costs were €1 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 €96 which was €30 per ewe higher than what was achieved on the average farms (€66 per ewe).
- Purchased feed remains the single biggest variable cost on sheep farms and at €21/ewe this equates to almost €14 per lamb weaned.
- The cost of producing a lamb was €75 and €86 for the top 1/3 and average farms, respectively.

#### Table 5Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (338 Farms)

	Average	Top 1/3	Top v Average
Physical Performance			
Flock size	191	245	+54
Stocking rate (LU/ha)	1.71	2.04	+0.33
Ewes/ha	7.8	9.8	+2.0
Lambs reared per ewe to ram	1.39	1.53	+0.14
Lambs reared per hectare	10.8	15.0	+4.2
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Gross output	€1016	€1,478	+€462
Variable costs	€491	€569	+€78
Gross margin	€525	€909	+€384
Fixed costs	€435	€554	+€119
Net profit Excl. premia	€90	€355	+€265
Total Premia *	€423	€403	-€20
Premia Retained*	121%	188%	+67%
Financial (€ / Ewe)			
Gross Output	€129	€154	+€25
Variable Costs	€63	€58	-€5
Gross Margin	€66	€96	+€30
Fixed Costs	€59	€58	-€1
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€7	€38	+€31
Average Lamb Price € / head	€96	€103	+€7

### **Lowland Sheep Farms 2016**



#### Lowland Sheep Variable Costs per Ewe 2016



# Hill Sheep Farms 2016

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

### Hill Sheep Farms 2016

- The top 1/3 of hill sheep farms had an extra €33 gross output per ewe compared to the average hill sheep farm (€96 versus €63 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 1.14 lambs per ewe put to the ram whereas the average reared 0.97.
- The average lamb price on the top 1/3 of hill farms was €12 higher compared to the price achieved on the average of hill farms (€77 versus €65 per lamb).
- Variable costs per ewe were similar for the top 1/3 of farms compared to those on the average (€36 versus €38 per ewe).
- Feed and fertiliser made up over 50% of the total variable costs per ewe (€20 of the €38).
- Gross margin per ewe was €35 higher for the top 1/3 of hill farms compared to the average (€60 versus €25 per ewe).
- Fixed costs per ewe were higher on the top 1/3 of farms compared to the average (€50 versus €46).
- The top 1/3 of hill sheep farms a net profit (excluding premia) of €10 per ewe, whereas the average farm made a net loss of €21 per ewe.

#### Table 6Profit Monitor per ewe analysis (97 Farms)

	Average	Top 1/3	Top v Average
Physical Performance			
Flock size	159	174	+15
Lambs reared per ewe to ram	0.97	1.14	+0.17
Average Lamb Price € / head	€65	€77	+€12
Financial (€ / Ewe)			
Gross Output	€ 63	€96	+€33
Purchased Feed	€ 15	€14	-€1
Fertiliser & Lime	€7	€8	+€1
Veterinary	€7	€6	-€1
Contractor	€5	€4	-€1
Other Variable Costs	€4	€4	-
Total Variable Costs	€38	€36	-€2
Gross Margin	€25	€60	+€35
Total Fixed Costs	€46	€50	+€4
Net Profit Excl. Premia	-€21	€10	<b>+€31</b>
Total Premia*	€104	€88	-€16
Premia Retained*	80%	111%	+31%

### Hill Sheep Farms 2016



Hill Sheep Variable Costs per Ewe 2016



# Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Sheep Farms)

Where a farm completed an eProfit Monitor on their sheep enterprise for both 2016 and 2015 they are included in this analysis. It only includes lowland sheep farms.

#### Comparison – 2015 v 2016 (Lowland Sheep Flocks)

- Gross output per hectare decreased by €56 (-5%) from 2015 to 2016.
- The decrease in gross output was due to a reduction in the number of lambs reared per ewe joined to the ram (1.45 versus 1.49) and to a lower lamb price (€ 98 versus €101).
- Variable costs rose by 2% compared to 2015 (€ 577 versus € 564 per ha). While feed and fertiliser costs were over 5% lower, there were increases in veterinary (+11%), contractor (+12%) and other variable costs (+12%).
- With a lower average gross output and higher variable costs per hectare the gross margin fell by 11% or €69 per hectare in 2016 when compared to 2015 (€589 versus €658 per ha).
- Fixed costs per hectare were €24 lower in 2016 (-5%) compared to 2015.
- The lower output of lambs and the higher variable costs per hectare led to a €44 reduction in net profit per hectare excluding premia (€136 versus €180 per ha). There was however a 6% increase in premia, amounting to an extra €27 per hectare (€483 versus €456 per ha).

Table 7Profit Monitor per hectare analysis (55 Farms)Comparison of costs and income on the same sheepfarms over two years

	2015	2016	% Change
Physical			
Stocking rate LU/ha	1.84	1.88	+2%
Ewes to ram	188	194	+3%
Lambs reared per ewe joined to ram	1.49	1.45	-3%
Lambs reared per hectare	12.9	12.7	-2%
Ewe lambs retained	44	44	
Financial (€ / ha.)			
Average lamb price	€101	€98	-2%
Gross Output	€1222	€1166	-5%
Variable Costs	€564	€577	+2%
Gross Margin	€658	€589	-11%
Fixed Costs	€478	€454	-5%
Net Profit Excl. Premia	€180	€136	-24%
Total Premia*	€456	€483	+6%
Premia Retained*	139%	128%	-11%

#### Variable Costs per Hectare - Lowland Farms 2015 vs 2016



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 2016 – per hectare analysis (318 Farms)

	Top 10%	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical					
Farm Size (cattle ha)	38.7	43.6	47.4	50.2	47.4
Stocking Rate LU/ha	2.6	2.30	1.90	1.60	1.4
Liveweight Produced kg/LU	409	380	339	281	257
Liveweight Produced kg/ha	1064	873	645	449	360
Financial €/ha					
Gross Output Value	€2,583	€2,035	€1,441	€947	€739
Variable Costs	€1,033	€866	€714	€599	€568
Gross Margin	€1,550	€1,169	€727	€348	€172
Fixed Costs	€609	€606	€542	€475	€427
Net Profit excl. Premia	€941	€563	€185	-€127	-€255
Total Premia *	€546	€539	€518	€498	€508
Total Premia Retained *	272%	204%	136%	74%	50%

# Suckling to Weanling / Store Farms 2016 – per hectare analysis (596 Farms)

	Top 10%	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical					
Farm Size (cattle ha)	30.7	33.9	32.1	28.2	25.7
Stocking Rate LU/ha	2.17	1.92	1.56	1.25	1.25
Liveweight Produced kg/LU	342	328	297	254	223
Liveweight Produced kg/ha	742	629	464	317	279
Financial €/ha					
Gross Output Value	€1,739	€1,412	€998	€640	€534
Variable Costs	€662	€607	€550	€527	€604
Gross Margin	€1,077	€805	€448	€113	-€70
Fixed Costs	€604	€547	€484	€426	€452
Net Profit excl. Premia	€473	€258	-€36	-€314	-€522
Total Premia *	€541	€535	€535	€540	€584
Total Premia Retained *	187%	148%	93%	42%	11%

#### Non-Breeding Farms 2016 – per hectare analysis (299 Farms)

	Top 10%	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical					
Farm Size (cattle ha)	40.3	40.2	35.4	29.5	28.1
Stocking Rate LU/ ha	2.55	2.22	1.77	1.41	1.24
Liveweight Produced kg/LU	471	446	390	326	299
Liveweight Produced kg/ha	1,202	991	691	459	371
Financial €/ha					
Gross Output Value	€2,910	€2,179	€1,427	€824	€572
Variable Costs	€1,252	€976	€757	€621	€594
Gross Margin	€1,659	€1,203	€670	€203	<b>-€22</b>
Fixed Costs	€850	€681	€542	€451	€453
Net Profit excl. Premia	€809	€522	€128	-€249	-€475
Total Premia *	€524	€537	€491	€434	€469
Total Premia Retained *	254%	197%	126%	43%	-1%

	Lo	owland S	heep	2016 -
per	hectare	analysis	(338	farms)

	Top 10%	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3	Bottom 10%
Physical Performance					
Flock size	245	245	191	140	121
Stocking rate(LU/ha)	2.28	2.04	1.71	1.34	1.13
Ewes/ha	11.2	9.8	7.8	6.0	5.0
Lambs reared per ewe to ram	1.56	1.53	1.39	1.25	1.18
Lambs reared per hectare	17.5	15.0	10.8	7.5	5.9
Financial Performance €/ha					
Gross output	€1,792	€1,478	€1,016	€581	€433
Variable costs	€592	€569	€491	€394	€360
Gross margin	€1,200	€909	€525	€187	€73
Fixed costs	€585	€554	€435	€344	€326
Net profit excl premia	€615	€355	€90	-€157	-€253
All Premia*	€375	€403	€423	€431	€374
% Premia* retained	264%	188%	121%	64%	32%
Average lamb price €/ head	€102	€103	€96	€89	€82

#### Major Costs per hectare on Suckling Farms 2016 (914 Farms)

	Top 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3
Total Variable Costs	€697	€607	€552
Of which:			
Feed	€221	€182	€163
Fertiliser & Lime	€158	€133	€108
Contractor	€124	€124	€131
Vet/Meds/AI	€102	€88	€77
Other	€92	€81	€73
Total Fixed Costs	€568	€504	€443
Of which:			
Land Rental	€54	€49	€42
Machinery Running	€94	€82	€72
Hired Labour	€24	€19	€15
Depreciation	€99	€80	€63
Interest	€24	€24	€20
Other	€273	€251	€232

#### Major Costs per hectare on Non Breeding Farms 2016 (299 Farms)

	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3
Total Variable Costs	€976	€757	€621
Of which:			
Feed	€486	€327	€222
Fertiliser & Lime	€171	€142	€129
Contractor	€124	€124	€120
Vet/Meds/AI	€75	€64	€60
Other	€120	€101	€90
Total Fixed Costs	€681	€542	€451
Of which:			
Land Rental	€66	€49	€44
Machinery Running	€106	€89	€72
Hired Labour	€50	€31	€26
Depreciation	€128	€90	€61
Interest	€41	€25	€16
Other	€290	€258	€232

### Major costs per ewe on Lowland Sheep Farms 2016 (338 farms)

	Тор 1/3	Average	Bottom 1/3
Total Variable Costs	€569	€491	€394
Of which			
Purchased Feed	€184	€168	€135
Fertiliser and Lime	€131	€107	€86
Veterinary	€90	€75	€58
Contractor	€88	€78	€65
Other	€76	€62	€51
Total Fixed Costs	€554	€435	€344
Of which			
Machinery Running	€84	€66	€54
Labour	€34	€22	€16
Land Lease	€71	€51	€36
Depreciation Buildings	€31	€23	€16
Depreciation Machinery	€52	€36	€21
Repairs & Maintenance	€65	€49	€41
Interest	€25	€24	€19
Other	€192	€164	€141

#### Teagasc

# e-Profit Monitor Analysis Drystock Farms 2016



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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

#### 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
Total Premia
Total Premia Retained (%)