

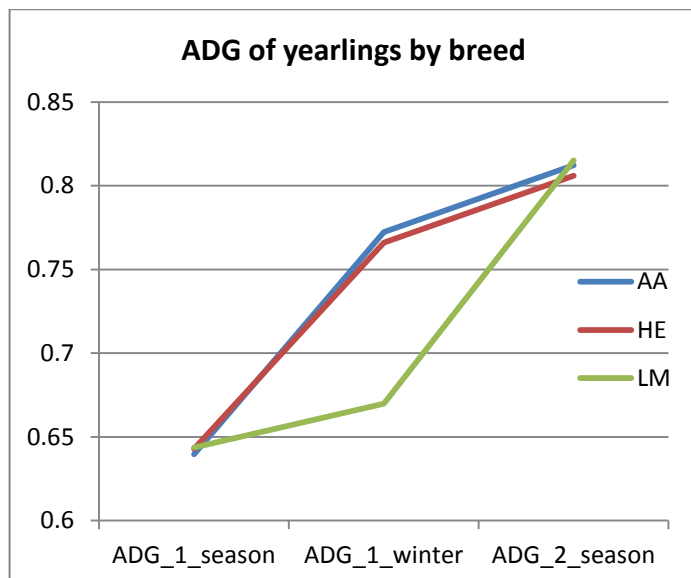
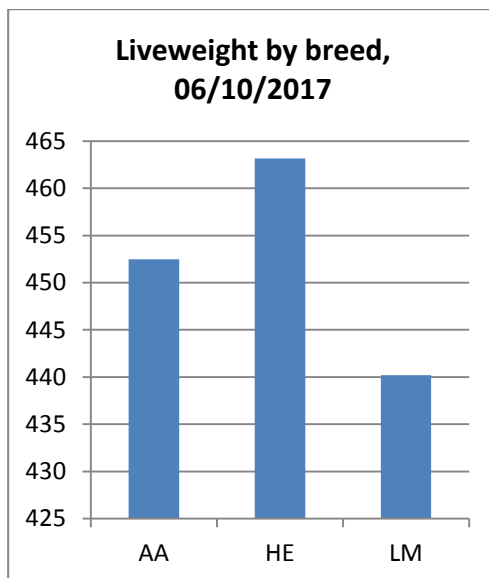
# Teagasc Johnstown Castle

## Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

**Update: 02-11-2017**

### Animal Performance: Yearlings

- Heifers being fed *ad lib* silage with 5 kg of concentrate. All cattle to be weighed next week.
- Body condition scoring of cattle for slaughter will begin next week, with target BCS of 3.75. All cattle will be BCS routinely (every two weeks).
- For logistical reasons heifers will be selected for slaughter on three dates; mid-November, mid-December and early-February approximately. Steers that become fit over this period will be slaughtered along with the heifers. The majority of the steers will be going back out to grass in spring for slaughter in May/June.
- From the results of the last weighing, the Hereford cattle were 11 and 23kg heavier than the Angus and Limousin cattle, respectively. The Limousin cattle had the worst performance during the second winter; however they had the highest ADG for the second season at grass.



### Animal Performance: 2017 calves

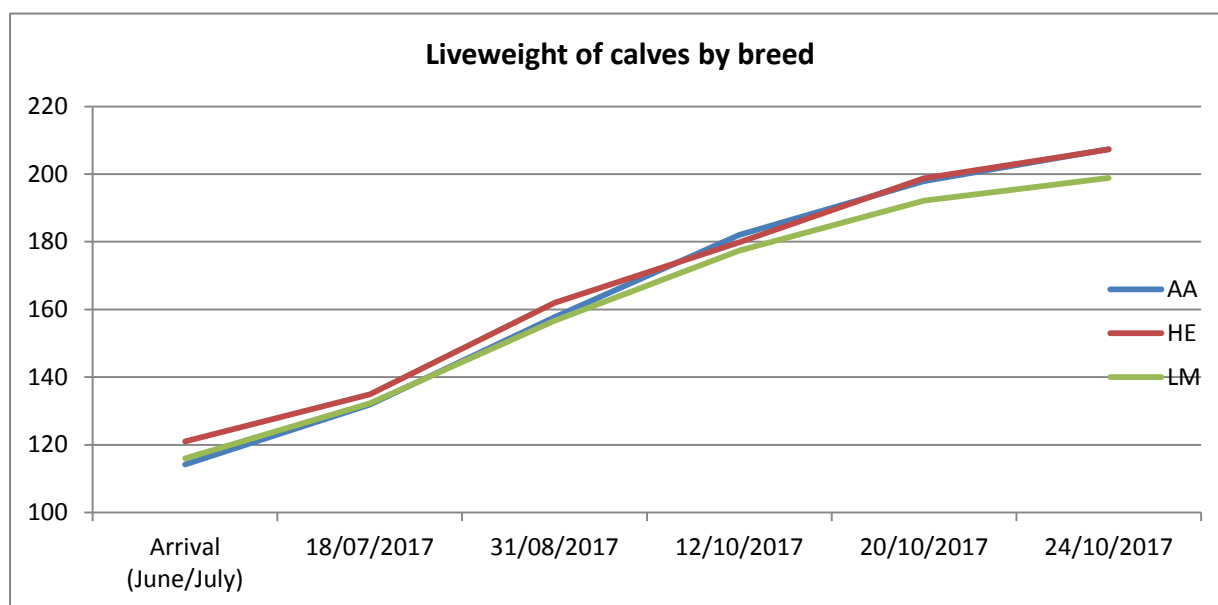
- Calves were housed on the 20th October due to the poor ground conditions and the lack of grass growth. They were weighted at housing and 4 days later.
- Calves are being fed ~1.5kg concentrates/head/day with *ad lib* silage.
- Two groups of poorer calves are housed on straw beds. One of these is a group of ~30 calves that were housed earlier (September). These calves will remain here



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(separated and on straw) for the winter. The other group were smaller calves that had remained at grass but were separated from the main grazing group. These will be drafted back to the main groups of calves that are on slats as they gain strength.

- Currently the Limousin calves are 8kg lighter than the Angus and Hereford calves. The medium stocking density group has slighter higher liveweight and better ADG than the low and high groups.



	*20/10/2017 (kg)	*24/10/2017 (kg)	ADG first season
<b>High</b>	194	<b>202</b>	<b>0.531</b>
<b>Medium</b>	191	<b>207</b>	<b>0.623</b>
<b>Low</b>	202	<b>205</b>	<b>0.565</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>0.572</b>

\*The housing and 4day weights do not contain the weights of the poor calves that were housed early.

### Health

- 12 calves have died since their arrival in June/July. One calf died from Salmonella at grass before the calves were housed.

### Grassland Management

- The wet September followed by ~60 ml of rain in October (with Hurricane Ophelia and storm Brian to contend with) ultimately led to the housing of the calves on the 20th October.
- Closing farm cover was taken 25th October. Only commercial calves remained outside on the spare ground, and these were housed on the 27th October.

Average closing farm cover across the entire farm was 645 kgDM/ha.

Farm Cover 25/10/2017 (kgDM/ha)	
<b>High</b>	720
<b>Medium</b>	641
<b>Low</b>	633
<b>Spare</b>	585