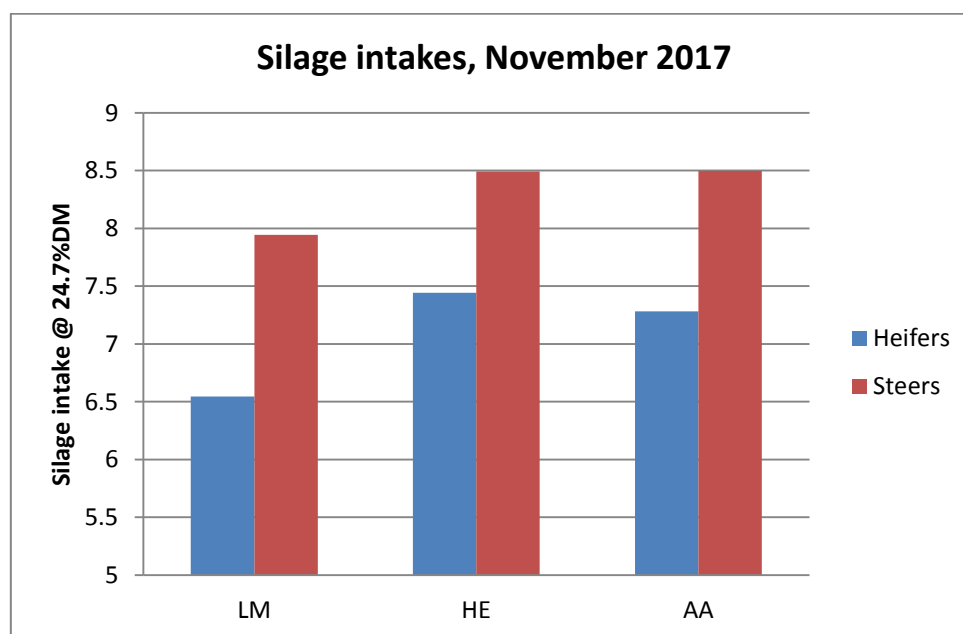


Teagasc Johnstown Castle Teagasc/ABP Dairy Beef Research Programme

Update: 11-12-2017

Animal Performance: *Older cattle*

- Heifers continue to be fed *ad lib* silage with 5.55 kg of concentrate (fresh weight). Steers are on *ad lib* grass silage only (72 DMD).
- From the silage intakes, the heifers are eating approximately 7.1 kgDM silage/head/day. With concentrates this equates to 11.4 kg dry matter intake per day. The steers are eating ~8.3 kgDM silage/head/day. The Limousin cattle appear to be eating the least.



- All of the older cattle will be weighed this week.
- Heifers were body condition scored on the 1st December. The target is to reach a BCS of 3.75 which should correlate to a 3+ fat score in factory.
- There are 12 Hereford and 5 Angus heifers to be killed Monday 18th December. As expected the Limousin heifers are slower to fatten, with the majority receiving 3.25 BCS. The next kill date will be mid-January.

	AA	HE	LM
3.0	-	-	2
3.25	13	9	31
3.5	17	13	2
3.75	5	12	-

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HEX heifer fit for kill.



LMX and HEX heifers not fit for kill.

Animal Performance: *Weanlings*

- The feeding programme remains as *ad lib* silage and ~2kg concentrate/head/day.
- The poor weanlings have picked up somewhat in terms of health and performance.
- 52 animals remain under the 'poor' bracket. 15 weanlings have died in total, giving a mortality rate of 5.9% which is particularly high.
- Some of the stronger weanlings will be drafted out to the slats with the rest of the trial animals from the straw shed in January.
- All weanlings will be weighed next week.