

# Kevin & Mary Farrell - Farm Overview

## Farm Details

- 76 ha ( 188 acres)
  - All owned
  - Farm split into 2 blocks

## System

- 150 Dairy bred calves mostly autumn born (Oct-Nov) & 300 mid season ewes
- 120 AA/HF steers & heifers @ 20 - 24 mths
- 30 Autumn Friesian @ 16 mths
- Mixed steers & heifers finished

## Teagasc Profit Monitor Analysis

	Farrell Farm	Avg. Profit Monitor 2014
Stocking rate	2.18 LU/ha	1.83 LU/ha
Live weight output	1461 kg/ha	1680 kg/ha
Gross output	€2208/ha	€2843/ha
Variable costs	€1231/ha	€1887/ha
Gross margin	€976/ha	€956/ha

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## Why Change System ?

### Positives

- Labour
- Grazing lighter stock
- Less groups

### Negatives

- Cashflow Budget
- High Cost Systems

## Important Factors to get right

- Sourcing calves
- Calf Rearing
- Grassland Management
- Silage Quality
- Market Requirements

# Purchasing Calves



# Kevin & Mary Farrell - Grassland Management

## Fertiliser:

- Entire farm soil sampled in 2014
- 80% of farm is Index 2 for Phosphate
- 60% of farm is Index 3 for Potash

- Mixed Grazing and strip grazing system:
- Calves grazed ahead of ewes
- Yearlings strip grazed – fresh grass daily
- No set area targeted for silage

## Grass Budgeting :

- Walks farm weekly
- Identifies surplus grass
- Takes out paddocks for silage
- 72% DMD silage as a result

## Early turnout:

- Critical to lower feed and vet costs
- Closes up paddocks from mid October
- Some stock out from Mid - Feb

# Steers & Heifers Grazing



# Reseeding

## Why Reseed?

- Increase grass production especially at the “shoulders” – spring and autumn
- Better grass quality
- Cost effective



# AA/HF Steers System

	Cost €/head	Live-weight
Calf Purchase	300	70
Milk Replacer	40	
Calf Concentrates	18	110
Concentrates Feb- June	25	
Vaccinations/Dosing	30	
Concentrates Nov-Feb	15	290
Silage Nov-Feb	76	330
Grazing March-October	24	
Grazing March-October	48	575kgs @ 52% KO
Finishing concentrates	80	300kg carcass
Straw	20	€3.70 (€3.58 O+)
Haulage and Slaughter	50	+0.12 QA
Mortality	12	+0.40 Triple A
Total	€738	€1230
	Gross Margin/head	€492

## Calf Rearing

- Milk Replacer
- Concentrates
- Vaccination/health
- Turnout to grass

## Housing

- Silage Quality
- Concentrates
- Herd health

## Finishing period

- Grouping stock
- Grass & concentrates

# Under 16 month Friesian Bull

	Cost €/head	Live-weight
Calf Purchase	150	50
Milk Replacer	60	
Calf Concentrates	18	110
Concentrates Feb-October	51	
Vaccinations/Dosing	30	
Grazing March – October	48	360
Silage Nov-Feb	26	550kgs @ 51% KO
Build up & Finishing concentrates	308	280kg carcass
Straw	20	€3.80(3.68 O+)
Haulage and Slaughter	50	€1030
Mortality	€6	
Total	€767	
	Gross Margin/hd	€263

- **Summer Concentrates**
- **Higher stocking rates**
- **Housing Dates**
- **Total of 1.75t meal/head**
- **Diet**
- **Fat scores and specifications**