



Good management of replacement heifers at housing is vital to ensure that they continue to develop and that growth targets are met. These heifers will be put in calf next April or May, so if they fall behind it will be difficult for them to catch up.

The target weight for these heifers is 35% of their mature weight at housing. Yearling heifers need to gain between 0.5kg/day and 0.7kg/day over the housed period to achieve their target weights. As replacement heifers enter the shed, they should be weighed. Ideally, they would then be grouped. They should continue to be weighed during the housed period to ensure that targets are being achieved and to detect heifers that aren't achieving their targets. Any heifers that are below target should be separated to allow them to have access to priority feeding.

## Replacement Heifer Target Weights

	Age (months)	% of Mature Body Weight	Maint €0 (641kg mature weight)	Maint €10 (591kg mature weight)	Maint €20 (541kg mature weight)
Oct (Housing)	8	35%	225	207	190
February	12	50%	320	296	270
May (Breeding)	15	60%	385	355	325
Feb (Calving)	24	90%	577	532	487

Target heifer weights based on EBI Maintenance Sub Index (Base cow €0 = 641kgs, every €1 = -5kgs)

Once the heifers are housed it can be difficult to spot animals that are under-performing unless regular weighing is taking place.

The **Bandon Co-op Heifer Rearing Programme** is an excellent programme that weighs your heifers and offers technical advice from the Agri team on weight targets, nutrition, and all aspects of heifer rearing. We now also offer a Faecal Egg Count test to examine the worm burden in your heifer groups and advise on when to dose.

## Housing management

Shortly after housing farmers should check their heifers to determine if treatment for parasites is required. The four major parasites farmers need to be conscious of at housing are:

- Gutworms
- Lungworms
- Fluke
- Lice

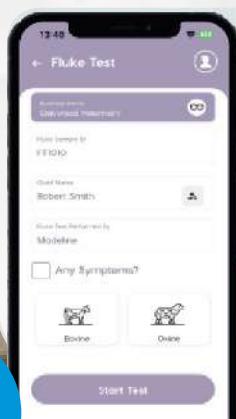
Failure to control parasites in heifers at housing could result in significant production losses from reduced weight gain, fertility issues, irreversible lung damage, increased susceptibility to disease and even death.

## Are you thinking of treating your animals for worms?

At Bandon Co-op we now provide rapid faecal worm tests in-house with same day results!

COMING SOON

RAPID FLUKE TESTING WITH MICRON KIT



To find out more about this service, contact Brendan Scully on 0873453495 or your local sales representative

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