

# Teagasc Beef Seminar Naas



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**Advisory**  
For better farming

# Silage Quality



	2012	2013
Dry Matter %	25	32
pH	4.3	4.4
Ammonia %	9.7	7
DMD %	64	68.6
Crude protein %	9.7	11.6

Issues: Drier Silage, Improved Preservation, Higher Feed Value, Increased Protein Content.

# Suckler Cow Feeding – Spring Calving



72 DMD

65 DMD

60 DMD

55 DMD

Restricted silage

Other considerations

## Silage Required

Restricted (80% of intake)

Fed to appetite

To appetite + 0.5-1 kg meals

To appetite + 1-1.5 kg meals

20 kg silage + 3.0 kg meals

Cow condition

Pre-calver minerals

# Suckler Cows – Autumn Calving

*If cow in good condition:*

72 DMD Pre-mating feed 1.8 kg  
66 DMD Pre-mating feed 2.5 kg  
60 DMD Pre-mating feed 3.0 kg



If in good condition, after breeding reduce by 1-1.5 kg

If in poor condition, continue feeding full meals after calving

# Feeding Weanlings

<b>DMD</b>	<b>Very poor (55%)</b>	<b>Poor (62%)</b>	<b>Average (68%)</b>	<b>High (72%)</b>
ADG = 0.6 kg	3.5	2.5	2.0	1.0

Feed meals pre-housing so that animals are at or above target at housing

Minimum gain needed to avoid stunting growth ~ 0.25 kg ADG

- The feeding rates above can be reduced by 0.5-1.0 kg for 0.4 kg LW gain, which may be adequate IF animals are turned out early

Batch weanlings –

- Target higher meal feeding rates at lighter animals. Lighter weanlings respond better to meal feeding than heavier weanlings

Don't over-rely on compensatory growth

Early turnout is as critical as meal feeding



# Finishing Cattle

## Supplementation Rates kg/day



Target Gain	High (75 DMD)	Medium (68 DMD)	Low (64 DMD)
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Continental steers

1.0	4.5	7.0	8.5?
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Continental heifers

0.90	3.0	4.5	6?
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# Eurostars in Action---- Store to Beef Farm

	One Star *	Five *****	Difference 5 Star Vs 1 Star
Purchase Weight Kgs	479	496	+17 kgs

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Carcase Weight	353	403	+ 50 kgs
Sale Price €	€1,241	€1,478	+ €237
Average Daily Liveweight Gain kg	1.0	1.1	+ 10%

# Eurostars in Action---- Store to Beef Farm

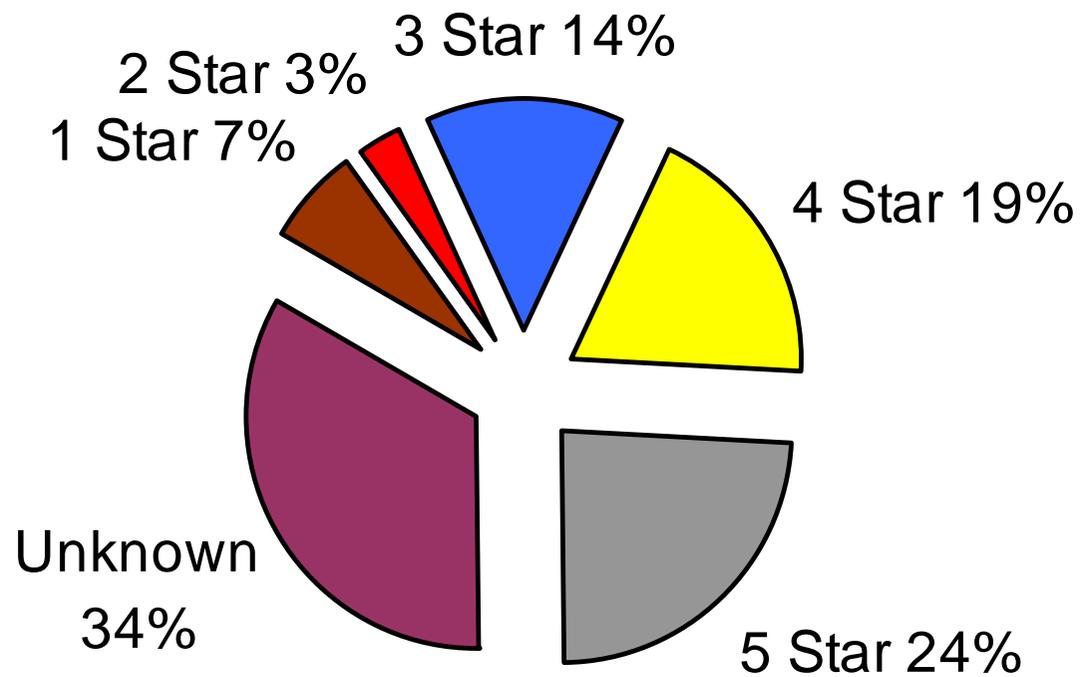
## ■ Grading

- One Star                      R=
- Five Star                      U-

- National Data Killing at same age Five star Steers Worth on average €303 more than one Star animals.

# Eurostars in Action---- Store to Beef Farm

## Commercial Slaughter Value



1 in 4 Animals have poor Star Rating.

1 in 3 Animals have unknown star Rating

# Eurostars In Action

## Case Study Two Weanling to Bull Beef Finisher



# Eurostars in Action---- Bull Beef Farm



<b>530 Weanlings</b>	<b>One Star *</b>	<b>Five *****</b>	<b>Difference 5 Star Vs 1 Star</b>
Purchase Weight Kgs	382	428	+46 kgs
Purchase Price €	€768	€845	+€77

# Eurostars in Action---- Bull Beef Farm



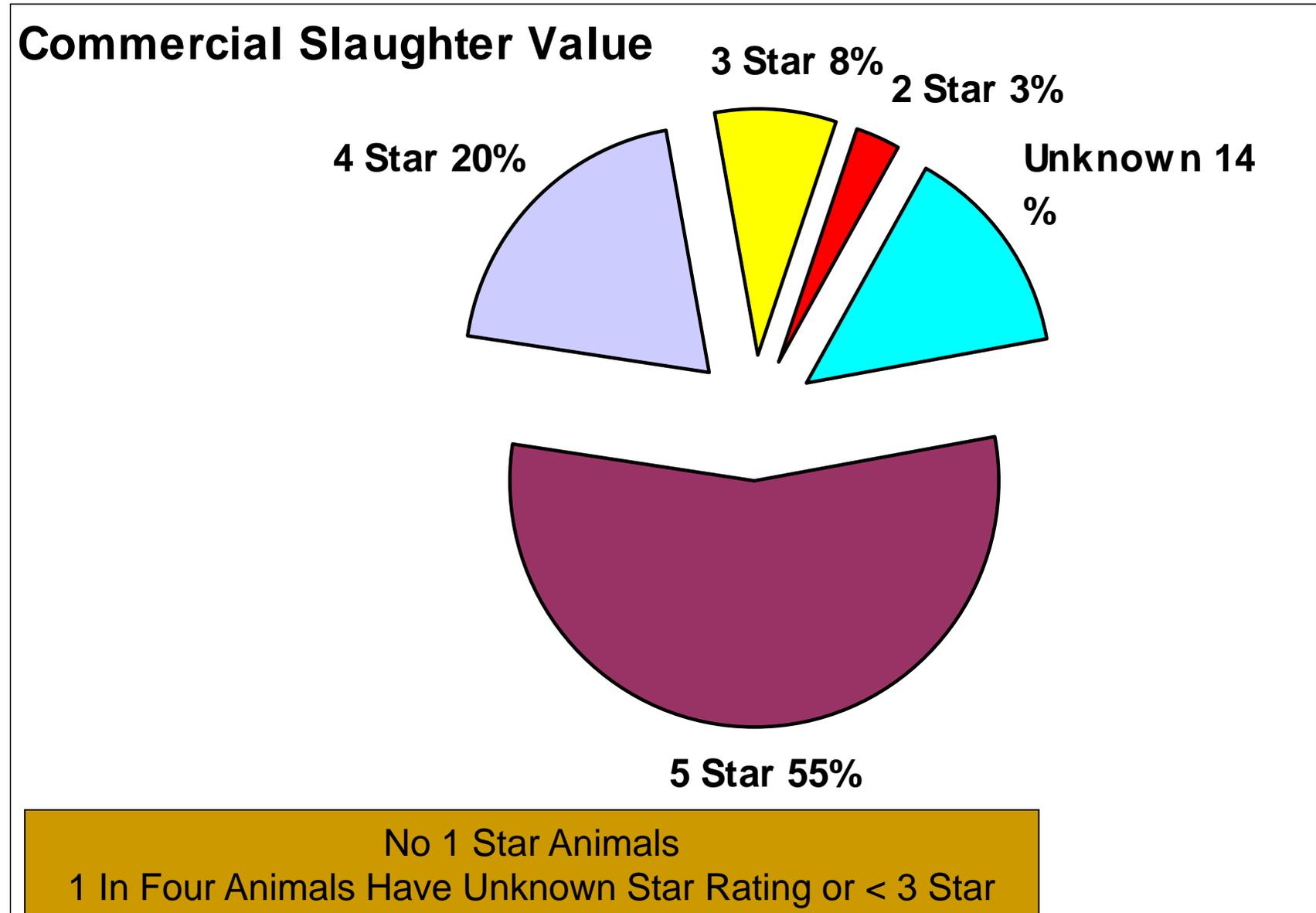
<b>530 Weanlings</b>	<b>One Star *</b>	<b>Five *****</b>	<b>Difference 5 Star Vs 1 Star</b>
Slaughter Age Months	19	17	-2 Months
Carcase Weight	332	419	+ 87 kgs
Sale Price €	€1,310	€1,723	+ €413
Days On Farm	222	224	+2 days
Average Daily Liveweight Gain kg	0.92	1.30	+ 41%

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# Eurostar-- Is It Worth Knowing ?

530 Weanlings Bought 4 star or better

Vs

530 Weanlings Bought on Sight (Star Rating Unknown)

+

€17,500

