Cow liveweight as a measure of intake

17 January 2017
Current situation

• Cull cow weight is used to estimate cow intake in the absence of ptas for liveweight
• Penalty in maintenance index = 1.49 kg cull cow weight
• Reward in beef index = €0.15 kg
• Cow liveweight now being evaluated in its own right 439,227 records on 228,000 cows
• Option to switch from cull cow to liveweight pta for maintenance index
• Liveweight rankings will be different to cull cow weight rankings due to differences in killout %
• Cull cow weight would remain in Beef index
Cow liveweight pta v phenotypic (min 25 daughters)

No of bulls 553  correlation r = 0.705
PTA = -6.71 {stddev = 21.06}
Phenotypic (kg) = 561.42 {stddev = 46.63}
Cow liveweight pta v Cull cow carcass weight

No of bulls 553  correlation r = 0.949
PTA cow lw = $-6.71 \{\text{stdev} = 21.06\}$
PTA cow carcass wt = $-7.73 \{\text{stdev} = 13.24\}$
Difference of 108kg between HO and JE cow (54kg x 2) 
= 108 x 4 = 432kg difference over lifetime 
Economic Value = €0.67 per kg