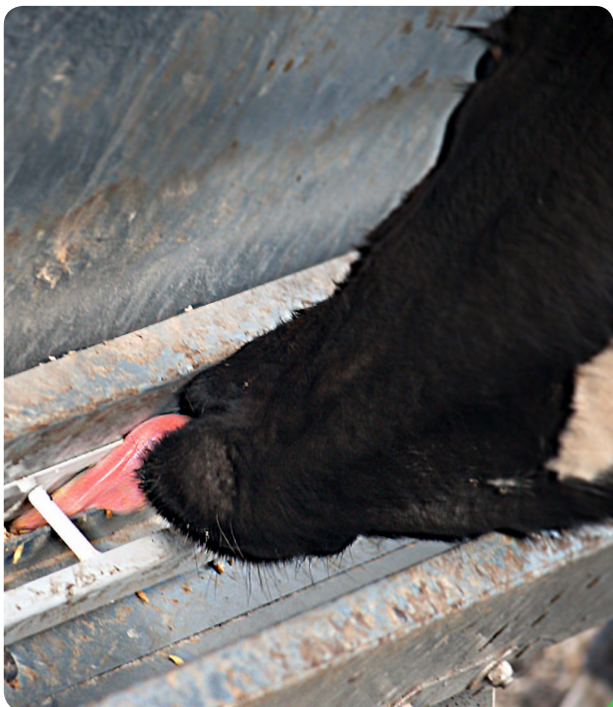


## Weaner supplement trial

An on-farm trial found that group of weaner cattle supplemented with barley through 3IN1FEEDERS grew at a considerably higher rate than another group that only had access to pasture.



# Controlled sup. boosts feed conversion

## Background:

Balancing the diet of weaner cattle grazing pasture with a high energy feed, like barley, increases weight gain however, the added animal value needs to be higher than the feed input cost.

3IN1FEEDERS provide a simple system to provide the animal's rumen with a regular supplement while controlling the quantity of feed consumed.

## Results:

Weaners that were supplement fed with 3IN1FEEDERS had an average starting and finishing weight of 259.0kg and 354.5kg, gaining 95.5kg.

Barley consumption amounted to 80kg/weaner.

The control group had an average starting and finishing weight of 261kg and 334kg, gaining only 73kg.

With a growth rate of 0.73kg/day in the control group, it would take an extra 31 days to equal the weight gain of the supplement group.

This reduced growing time is crucial for heifers being bred at 15 months. It is also important to produce saleable animals before pasture quality deteriorates leading into winter.

## Trial outline

Quantity:	50 weaners in the creep feeding group and 50 in the control group. Both groups made up of an equal amount of steers and heifers.
Duration:	100 days
Feeding program:	
Supplement group:	0.8kg/day of barley
Control group:	no supplement



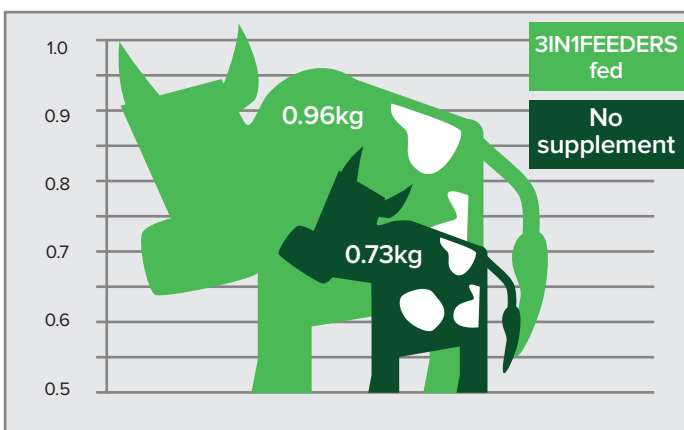
### Opportunity for higher profits

The trial was only conducted for 100 days. There is potential to start supplementing yearlings earlier, immediately after weaning.

While the supplement group achieved a high feed conversion of 3.13:1 (barley consumption : weight gain), they only consumed 0.8kg/day of barley. If the feed rate was doubled it is likely the growth rates would have increased with a similar feed conversion.



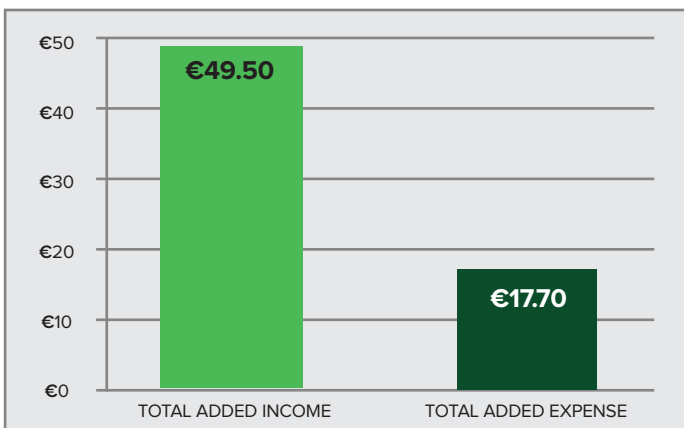
Daily weight gain comparison



### Expenditure, income and profit

Trial period (days)	100
Barley consumption/head (kg)	80
Barley cost/tonne (€/kg)	€140.00
Total feed cost/head	€11.20
Depreciation cost*	€5.70
Feeding cost**	€0.80
<b>TOTAL ADDED EXPENSE/head</b>	<b>€17.70</b>
Average added liveweight gain/day (kg)	0.225
Total added liveweight/head (kg)	22.5
Value of liveweight (€/kg)	€2.20
<b>TOTAL ADDED INCOME/head</b>	<b>€49.50</b>
<b>TOTAL ADDED PROFIT/head</b>	<b>€31.80</b>

Total added income versus total added expense



\* This assumes the depreciation rate is 15%, the investment of one feeder is €1,900 and 50 weaners fed from the feeder.

\*\* This is calculated by multiplying: filling the feeders twice, by one hour each fill, labour is €20/hour and 50 weaners fed from the feeder.