



## Simmental is preferred breed on Kingdom Farm

**F**arming just outside Knocknagoshel in North Kerry, Geoffrey Keane runs a 30 cow suckler herd which includes ten pedigree Simmental cows under the “Bunavalla” herd Prefix.

Geoffrey works off farm and is ably assisted by his father Tom who is a constant around the farm especially during the calving season. The Keane’s preferred calving period is July to September as they find this system suits well from a calf health perspective. Another advantage is that they have strong weanlings at housing who continue their performance right through the winter period.

The commercial cows on the farm are all Simmental sired as the Keane’s like the calving ability of these cows and are especially suited to outside calving. One necessary cow requirement is milk and the proof of this is the high weaning weights achieved at nine months.

All surplus heifers are sold as breeding heifers at 12 months of age approximately and Geoffrey is very pleased as he can achieve close to  $\pounds$ 3/kg for these heifers at very good weights. All weanling bulls are sold at 9-10 months of age and regularly reach weights of 450-500kg which is a major advantage at sale.







The stockbull on the farm in 2020 was Towerhill Jason, a Kilbride Farm Delboy sired bull who is transferring great power and performance into his progeny. Geoffrey when asked about his stockbull stated that “he is easy calving and his progeny achieve great weights at young ages”. He expects his daughters to maintain the strong maternal traits of the herd.

The Keane’s have worked towards all homebred replacements and will replace their stockbull at a younger age than necessary in order to keep

they own quality replacements. In fact, the oldest pedigree cow presently on the farm is Bunnavalla Beauty, a September 2010 born cow who is out of a stockbull Leeherd Tyrone, who in turn was by Hillcrest Champion and out of a Lackabawn Ally dam. Beauty’s dam Sile was sired by Anatrim Jacob and out of a Wellhouse Willem dam. This cow has proved very successful having eight calves to date.

In summary, Simmental is working exceptionally well for the Keane’s and they look forward with optimism to the years ahead.

