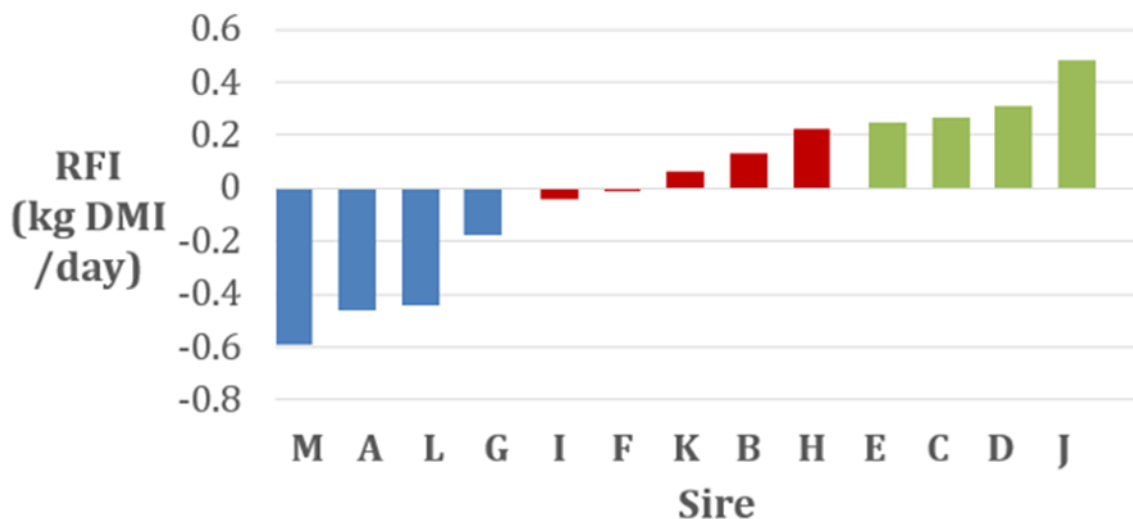


Beef Feed Efficiency Programme — Batch 1 preliminary results

The first batch of trial cattle, which included 93 Limousin pure and crossbred steers by 13 different sires from ten different farms, have completed their data collection phase at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) in Edinburgh.

Residual Feed Intake (RFI) is one of the feed efficiency measures being evaluated as part of the study. RFI calculates the difference between an animal's actual feed intake and its predicted feed intake. Efficient animals eat less than predicted and have a negative or low residual feed intake, while inefficient animals eat more than expected and have a positive or high residual feed intake. The graph below shows the preliminary RFI results for the first batch of cattle.

Figure 1: Preliminary results Batch 1 – Residual feed intake of Limousin-sired progeny grouped by sire



Five batches of cattle will go through the unit at SRUC, allowing time for two feed recording units to be set up on commercial farms. The plan is for these farms to receive cattle during the second half of 2016. Meanwhile, the scientists at SRUC are working on refining the measurement protocols and a business planning group remains focused on developing an operational model that will enable the programme to be expanded to other breeds after the initial four-year project funded by DEFRA and AHDB concludes.