

Moate Student to compete in National Final of SciFest in Dublin in November

By Ciara Maxwell

Adam Kelly is a 2nd year student in Moate Community School. Last year Adam entered **Scifest** with his project “Can Beet Beat Other Feeds?” His project’s aim was to see whether there would be a difference in weight gain if cattle were fed beet or maize ration. After feeding weanlings either beet or maize, Adam found that in fact



beet was more successful in supporting weight gain. Adam won **the Best Overall Project** in the Regional Final of **Scifest** at the AIT in May. He is now progressing on the 10th of November to the **National Scifest Final**, which will be held in the Marino Conference Centre in Dublin.

Adam has been extending his project. Firstly, he tested the fermentation rate of rumen contents when different feed

samples (maize, beet and bailey) were added to identify which feed breaks down more efficiently. He repeated his original feed test on weanlings using a larger sample size and supplemented his beet feed with phosphorus to make it more balanced. He then established the weanlings weight gain. As part of his investigation, on Friday 6th of October Adam visited the Red Mills manufacturing site in Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny. His aim was to see how the cattle feed was produced and learn how nutritional content of feed is tested. Adam said he “really enjoyed his time” at the factory and got a “great insight into how feed is produced and tested there”.

Adam is now busy preparing for the **National Scifest Final** on the 10th of November. We wish Adam the best of luck in the competition.