

Performance of dairy-beef weanlings fed red clover-grass silage

Red clover silage swards

- High biological N fixation
- High DM production (>15 t DM/ha)
- High intake potential
- High animal performance?



PRG silage

0% RC

72% DMD, 13.3% CP

RCG silage

87% RC

63% DMD, 15.3% CP

First winter animal performance

	PRG	RCGS
1st winter indoors		
Dry matter intake (kg DM)	6.2	7.6
Residual feed intake (kg DM)	-0.14	0.15
Initial liveweight (kg)	286	286
Final liveweight (kg)	337	346
Average daily gain (kg)	0.56	0.68
2nd grazing season		
Initial liveweight (kg)	339	346
Final liveweight (kg)	494	493
Average daily gain (kg)	0.95	0.91

Take home message

- Despite lower DMD (9%), RC grass-silage increased intake by **1.4 kg DM/day**, but only ADG by **0.120 kg** = lower feed efficiency.
- Due to compensatory growth no liveweight difference existed by the end of 2nd grazing season.