NUTRITION NOTES
INDEPENDENT ADVICE
BASED ON INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

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Fodder Shortage Worksheet

. CALCULATE TOTAL DEMAND

Animal type	No. of stock (a)	Winter feeding (mths) (b)	Pit Silage Needed per month (c)	Bales Needed per month (d)	Total (a x b x c or d)
Dairy cow			1.6	1.8	
Suckler cow			1.4	1.6	
Incalf heifer			1.3	1.4	
Weanling			0.7	0.8	
Store cattle			1.3	1.4	
			TOTAL REQUIREMENT t		

2. CALCULATE TOTAL FEED SUPPLY

Convert all feeds to the Equivalent of Grass Silage at 20% DM

	Acres (a)	**Yield (t fresh/ac) (b)**	**Total Yield a x b (c)**	**DM %**	**Total Feed Supply t fresh (Equivalent to grass silage @ 20% DM)**
Pit Silage					
Grass silage				20	= (c * 1) =
Grass silage				25	= (c * 1.25) =
Maize silage				30	= (c * 1.5) =
Whole crop silage				40	= (c * 2) =
Processed whole crop				70	= (c * 3.6) =
Fodder beet				19	= (c * 0.95) =
Bales			**No. of bales (d)**	**DM %**	
Silage bales (600 kg)				30	= (d * 0.6 * 1.5) =
Bales (700 kg)				25	= (d * 0.7 * 1.25) =
Straw bales (150 kg)				88	= (d * 0.15 * 4.4) =
Hay bales (240 kg)				82	= (d * 0.24 * 4.1) =
TOTAL SUPPLY T FRESH @ 20% DM					

3. EXAMINE THE OPTIONS

A. Restrict Silage & Feed Meals

If you only have 40% of what you require:

	kg silage needed	kg meals needed	Crude Protein % in Meals
Suckler cow (dry)	18-20	1.5-2	12-14
Suckler cows with calves	18-20	5-6	14-15
Dairy cow (dry)	18-20	3-4	12-14
Weanling	8-10	2-4	14-15
Stores (350 kg)	12-15	2-3	12-14
Stores (500 kg) / incalf heifers	18-20	3-4	12-14

If you have 70% of your silage requirements, reduce the meal feeding rates above by 1-2 kg, depending on silage quality and target gains.

Adequate feeding space is critically important to avoid some animals overeating and other animals being bullied. Don't forget to feed minerals, particularly important with limited and/or poor quality silage Ensure a good supply of fresh water. Build up feeding rates slowly. This may require setting up additional trough feeding space in yards. All animals should be monitored regularly for signs of ill-thrift on this system. Monitor cow condition regularly. Supplementation rates may need to be increased or decreased, accordingly.

B. Buy feeds – What should you pay for feeds?

Feed ingredients are expensive at present and for many it will make more sense to buy balanced rations rather than straights. Protein feeds are expensive with soya costing €480-500 / t and all other protein feeds tracking it.

Feed	Value Delivered € (Relative to barley @ €250 and soya @ 545)
Grass silage 65-70 DMD (600kg + 30% DM) €/bale	31-30
Grass silage 65-70 DMD (600kg + 25% DM) €/bale	26-29
Maize Silage (25% starch, 28% DM) € / t fresh	52
Whole crop wheat (25% starch, 40% DM) € / t fresh	68
Fodder beet €/t fresh	44
Brewers grains (24% DM) € / t fresh	54
Eornagold	129
Trafford Gold	105

C. Sell Stock

Animal type	No. of animals (a)	Winter feed-ing (months) (b)	Silage required per month (c)	Total (a x b x c)
Total Reduction in Demand t				