





# **Fodder Plan-Winter 2018 Requirement**

## Section 1. What Fodder is required on the Farm?

	Α	В	С	
Animal Type	No. of Stock to be kept over Winter	Number of Months *(Include a 4-6 week <i>reserve)</i>	Pit Silage Needed tones / animal / month	Total tones of Silage Needed Multiply (AxBxC)
Dairy cows			1.6	
Suckler cows			1.4	
0-1 year old			0.7	
1-2 year old			1.3	
2+ year old			1.3	
Ewes			0.15	
Total tonnes needed D				
Total bales needed (tonnes multiplied by 1.25)				

## Section 2. Calculate pit silage conserved & silage to be cut

i. Silage in the pit	Length x breadth x settled height) metres ÷1.35 =		Silage in the pit (t)	
	G	Н		
ii. Pit silage to be cut	Area (Acres)	Yield t/acre	Total yield (t)	
			(GxH*)	
2nd cut				
3rd cut				
	Total yield pit	silage to be cut	1	

	J	K	
iii. <u>Bales</u>	Number of bales	Yield/bale	Total yield (t)
			(JxK)
1st & 2nd cut bales		0.8 t / bale	
Surplus bales		0.8 t / bale	
Total yield baled silage			L

## Section 3. Calculate the surplus / deficit

Total silage demand (D) minus total silage produced (F, I, L) = D-F-I-L	
% deficit= (deficit in tonnes ÷ total demand in tonnes) x 100	

#### Additional Questions for the Census (To be filled if completing the survey)

1.	Enter your company/organisation name?	
2.	Is the farmer a Teagasc client	
3.	What county do you farm in?	
4.	What is the main enterprise on the farm?	
5.	Did you include a reserve in you calculations (Yes / No)	
6.	If so, how many weeks	
7.	What is the farmers 1st preference for filling the gap	
	Buy silage	
	Buy meals	
	Buy silage & meals	
	Buy straw & meals	
	Buy maize / whole crop / beet etc	

### Top Tips for Filling the Gap

Other

- 1. Continue to apply 20-30 units of N to grazing ground
- 2. Remove surplus bales, where possible
- 3. Harvest 2nd cut by late July
- 4. Build grass for extended grazing in the Autumn
- 5. Build a reserve of 4-6 weeks into your calculations for fodder demand
- 6. If short of silage consider
- A. Buy extra fodder locally
- B. Buy additional meals
- C. Reduce demand for feed—sell stock
- D. Consider finishing beef animals on ad lib meals

Calculating the % deficit in silage stocks can help you to decide on how to fill the gap. If the % deficit is less than 20% the gap can be filled with meals

# Sample Feed Budget

	Number	Months	Total t
Suckler Cows	40	5	280
0-1 years old	35	5	123
1-2 years old	35	5	228
			<u>631</u>
Total demand including 1 month reserve			757t
Total supply			648t
Deficit			139t

### OPTIONS TO FILL THE 139 t GAP

- 1. Sell 6 cull cows Save 50 tonnes
- 2. Buy 50 tonnes of silage
- 3. Restrict weanlings to 2/3 of normal silage & Feed and additional 1-1.5kg meals—save 40 tonnes

**SAVE 140 t SILAGE**