

Investment in farmyards is unrelenting

David & John O'Gorman are pictured with Tom Fallon from Teagasc in a silage pit that was completed in 2023. The O'Gormans have invested heavily in their farm, completing a 50-unit rotary parlour in 2022 and a 164-cubicle house in 2020.

They have two substantial silage pits (36.6m x 18.3m and 25m x 24m), each with one side wall but they still need additional storage especially in the context of longer winters and having spare feed to cover a dry summer.

They are considering building a pit for maize silage, additional cubicle housing and a settlement tank for yard runoff. A walled pit for maize 37m long 10m wide and 1.8m high will add 500 tonnes to their silage storage capacity.

Five months supply for 350 cows

They will then be able to store about 2,900 tonnes of silage with an average pit height of 3.3m on the grass silage pits.

This will cover a five-month winter for 350 cows and for the feeding of 6 kg maize dry matter per cow per day over a 30 day dry spell in the summer.

They will also look at building a silage apron complete with channels at the back of the new pit.

This will allow the pit to be filled from the back. In the winter time this apron could be used to store farmyard manure as it will be separate from the working face of the pit.

