

Newsletter for Drystock Farmers – July 2018

Options to consider with present drought conditions:-

1. Meal Feeding

Meal feeding is essential to supplement with limited / no grass along with supplementation of forage.

Recommended Supplementation Rates:-

	Kg Fresh Fodder	Meal Levels	CP%
Suckler Cows			
Bale Silage	18	3 – 4 kg	14 – 16%
Hay	7	3 – 4 kg	14 – 16%
Store Cattle (450 kg)			
Bale Silage	12	4.0 kg	14 – 16%
Hay	5	4.0 kg	14 – 16%
Weanlings (250 kg)			
Bale Silage	8	2 – 3 kg	14 – 16 %
Hay	3	2 – 3 kg	14 – 16%

Example of Ration:

Barley 34%) UFL – 0.98
 Distillers 33%) = CP% - 15.5
 Soya Hulls 33%) High Fibre Content

NB adequate water to be available at all times

2. Consider Catch Crops

Crops to consider weather permitting:-

- * Redstart (cross between Rape & Kale)

* Rape

* Stubble Turnips

Ideal to sow after cereal crops and sown by mid August.

Forage Crop selection and Production Guide

Crop	Sowing Time	Seeding Rate/Ac	Time of Utilisation	Expected Yield (Tons DM/Ha)	DM%	CP%
Hybrid Brassica <i>Redstart</i>	Jun-Aug	3.5-4.0 kg	Aug-Feb	6-8	12-14	18-20
Fodder Rape <i>Stego</i> <i>Greenland</i>	July-Aug	3.5 – 4.0 kg	Oct-Feb	4.6	12-14	18-20
Stubble Turnip <i>Tyfon</i>	April - Sept	2.0 -3.0 kg	Jun-Feb	3-5	8-10	18-20

Sheep

Steps to take with sheep flock in present drought conditions.

- Wean lambs – prioritise grazing
- Draft lambs when fit
- Sell cull ewes early
- Tighten remaining ewes on small area
- Hay/Silage to weaned ewes if necessary
- Feed 300 to 500g per day of concentrates to lambs
- Where grass supplies are limited or of poor quality – need to increase concentrate level.

