



## Silage use and costings

It is abundantly clear this year after a mild winter that stocks of round bales accumulated over the season just haven't been used. The question then to be asked is 'Did we need to make so much in the first place?' I understand well enough the need for a bit extra for long winters, but is it necessary to make so much? Grass rents have to compete with the big three crops of cauliflower, potatoes and daffodils— grass rents can't compete and because of this the land is just not there to rent for grass as farmers choose to let their land for cropping instead. It is therefore doubly important to maximise the land available to produce the right amount of grass rather than an excess, by applying the right amount of fertiliser, knowing how much silage you need and knowing the cost of producing that grass and silage.

### Animal requirements - Winter silage requirements for housed cattle

Type of Animal	Daily requirement	150 day winter
Suckler Cow	30kg	4500kg – 4.5ton
Finishing Beast	25kg	3750kg
Dairy Cow (6000lts)	50kg	7500kg

This assumes an all grass diet where cows have been housed from November onwards. Factors such as winter keep from, stubble turnips, cauliflower stubbles, kale and grazing croft land will all affect intakes

### Cost of making silage

Operation	Per Bale £	Per tonne clamped
New Seeds all costs are based upon reseeding every five years	10 bales/acre	10 ton/acre wet
Grass seed £60/acre /5yrs	£1.20	£1.20
Ploughing, Cultivation x 2 & Rolling /5yrs	£1.13	£1.13
Rent- assumes three cuts (1 cut and 2 grazings)	£3.00	£3.00
Fertiliser 1cwt /acre 34.5% N	£1.60	£1.60
Fertiliser 2cwt / acre 20: 8:11	£3.35	£3.35
Mowing	£1.00	£1.00
Tedding x 2 & rowing up	£1.35	£1.35
Baling	£2.40	
Buckrake		£0.50
Carting / leading	£1.50	£0.70
Bale wrapping, stacking and plastic	£6.00	£0.30
Additive & forage harvester costs	£0.60	£3.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£23.23</b>	<b>£16.53</b>

The above costs are assuming contracting charges, where your own labour is involved or your own equipment then additional costs should be added to those included above.

## Are you thinking about going into Sheep Production?

In June we will be running a free one-day workshop for farmers new to Sheep, covering topics such as breed types, health & welfare, handling, costings and selecting lambs for market.

The workshop will be farm based and will include lunch and information materials. For more details and to book a place please contact the Office.

## www.farmcornwall.co.uk

Last year we updated our website to make it more user-friendly. We use it to inform you of issues, events, sales and wants and more recently a price section where a range of prices will be updated regularly from calves to fertiliser to dairy cake. We make no charge for any item advertised on the website. The more people using the site for finding out information or for looking for produce or wishing to sell items the better it will become.

## Mud on the Road

In a recent court case a motor cyclist slid on mud on the road claiming £9000 of damages against the farmer for allowing the road to become muddy, and against the Highways Authority for failing to deal with the situation.

The landowner had erected signs, employed a contractor to clean the roads with a sweeper and contacted the Highways Authority for advice who then put out more signs in the affected area.

The Judge ruled the farmer had taken all reasonable steps to manage the hazard, he also ruled in favour of the Highways Authority leaving the motorcyclist to pick up the legal costs of £80,000.

### Guidance

It is recommended where a significant amount of mud is taken out of the field onto the highway, the following actions should be taken;

1. Signage on highway saying "Caution Mud on Road" must be put out warning vehicles of the hazard
2. Signs placed sensibly to allow time for vehicles to slow down before mud is encountered
3. Signs should be statutory colours of "Red background and white letters saying "Caution Mud On Road"
4. Boards with hand writing is not acceptable
5. Signs should be placed on the left hand side of the road leading to the site
6. Signs should be 1050mm x 750mm minimum
7. Where the site is near a junction then signage is placed on all roads leading to the site
8. Where applicable hire a contractor to sweep the road free of mud as is practically possible
9. Inform the Highways Authority



## April 2012 - VAT deadline

Since April 2010 most VAT-registered businesses have been required to submit their VAT Returns online and pay any VAT due electronically. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) plans, from 1 April 2012, to extend this requirement to virtually all VAT-registered businesses.

For those affected by the change we will be running a VAT Workshop in Penzance on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 11.00am – 12.30pm** in conjunction with Steren Ltd, a local company providing accountancy services. This will go through the basics of how to get started, how to submit your VAT returns and what the implications are for late filing. There will also be an opportunity to discuss other VAT issues during the free lunch which will follow the workshop.

If you haven't already registered to file VAT returns online we can do this for you on the day – you will need to bring along details of your VAT registration, information from the last VAT return filed and your Government Gateway login details if you have them.

For more details and to book a place on the Workshop please call the office on 01736 352012 or email [debbie@farmcornwall.co.uk](mailto:debbie@farmcornwall.co.uk)

## Use of Gypsum as a bedding material

The Environment Agency (EA) has issued a warning over the use of Gypsum in slurry systems on two counts;

Firstly, from a safety point of view - when gypsum is mixed with slurry it can produce Hydrogen Sulphide (rotten eggs smell) which can kill.

Secondly, the farmer will need a permit to accept the waste which can only be obtained from the EA.

At the moment mixing gypsum with animal waste is an offence, and any licence you may have to accept waste will only cover spreading of gypsum directly on to land. Before applying for a licence it would be advisable to contact your local NFU office.

### Contact Us:

Unit 7, Penwith Business Centre  
Long Rock, Penzance  
TR20 8HL

Tel: 01736 352012 Mobile: 07775 667825  
Email: [edward@farmcornwall.co.uk](mailto:edward@farmcornwall.co.uk)

FarmCornwall does its best to ensure that all information and advice given is up to date and accurate. However, the information and advice does not constitute legal or professional advice and Edward Richardson and FarmCornwall cannot accept any liability for actions arising from its use. You should seek your own professional or legal view as needed. Advice is based only on the facts and information provided.

