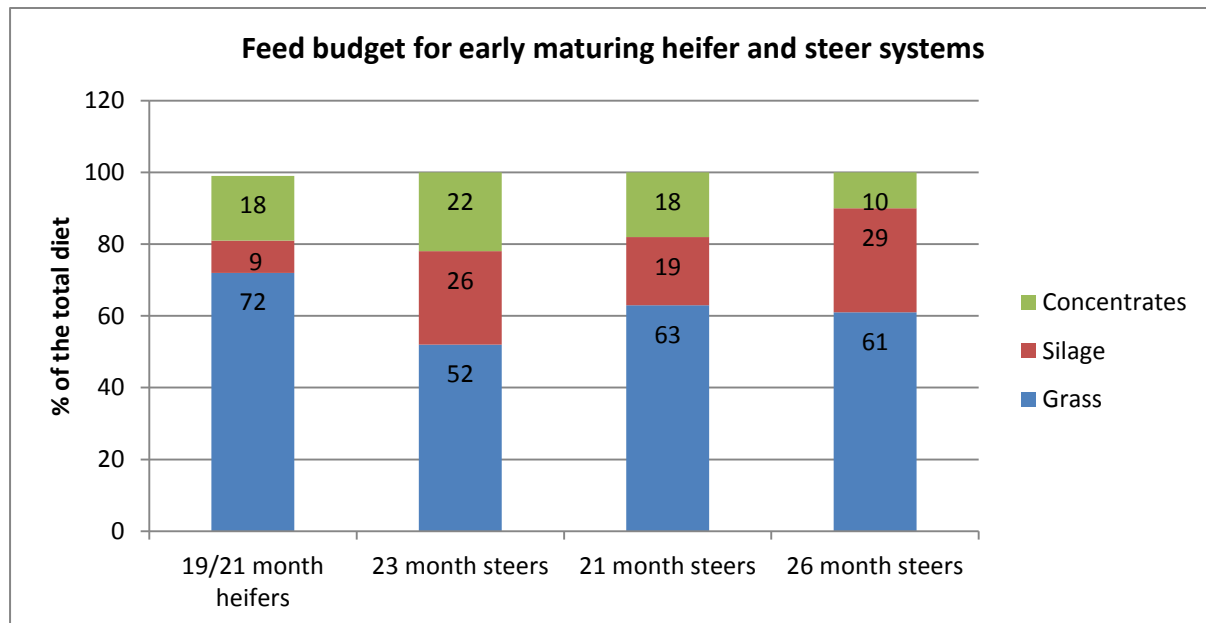


Herbage production; Male dairy and early-maturing calf to beef production systems

A key element of profitable dairy calf-to-beef systems is the efficient utilisation of grazed grass. The graphs below highlight the variation in the feed budgets for grass, grass silage and concentrates for each production system.



Each system has a different requirement for grass herbage per head ranging from 2.3 t DM for the 19-month heifer systems to 4.3 t DM for the 26-month steer system. At a stocking rate of 200 kg organic N/ha and assuming excellent levels of grass utilisation, the farm would need to grow between 10.1 t DM/ha and 11.6 t DM/ha for each of these systems, respectively. At 225 kg organic N per hectare this rises to 11.3 and 13.0 t DM/ha for each of these systems, respectively. Therefore, the capacity of the farm to grow grass will largely dictate the stock carrying potential of the farm.