

# FODDER SURVEY RESULTS

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Dairy and drystock farmers in discussion groups were surveyed over the period 17<sup>th</sup> July 27<sup>th</sup> July to establish the extent of the fodder problems.

## SUMMARY

- 87% and 79% of 1<sup>st</sup> cut harvested on the surveyed dairy and drystock farms, respectively
- Of those surveyed, 62% and 85% of dairy and drystock farms have adequate silage for the winter. We have no indication of quality yet but quality could be a major issue on a lot of these farms, even though quantity is adequate
- For those that are short of silage, the deficit is on average 23.5% but this ranges from 10-40%
- Approximately 56.5% of the farmers surveyed are feeding silage at present. This may have implications for silage stocks, if the poor conditions continue. While the deficit is 23.5% now, this could rise if reserves are depleted over the coming weeks
- On average, 89% of dairy farmers surveyed are feeding meals and feeding on average 4 kg to dairy cows and 1.3 kg to young stock
- 56% of drystock farmers are feeding meals to cattle, 0.7 kg to suckler cows and 1.5 kg to young stock
- Of the farmers surveyed, 30% of dairy farmers suggest that they sold stock to deal with the shortage, while 17% of drystock farmers suggest they sold stock to alleviate fodder problems
- 80% of dairy farmers have spread fertiliser in July, while 54% of drystock farms surveyed spread fertiliser in July.
- 37% of farmers have adequate or surplus grass, while 63% are scarce or very scarce
- 56% of drystock farmers surveyed have adequate or surplus grass, while 44% are scarce or very scarce.

<b>DAIRY</b>	Average	Range
What % of first cut silage is harvested?	87%	61-100%
Have you enough silage for the winter?	38% No	0-54%
If short, how short?	22%	16-40%
Are you feeding silage	58% YES	
Are you feeding meals?	89% Yes	
Where meals are being fed to cows, how much?	4 kg	2.0-5.2
Where meals are being fed to calves / in-calf heifers, how much?	1.3 kg	1-2.0
Did you have to sell stock to deal with the shortage	30% Yes	
Has fertiliser been spread in July?	20% No	

<b>DRYSTOCK</b>	Average	Range
What % of first cut silage is harvested?	79%	60-100%
Have you enough silage for the winter?	15% No	0-30%
If short, how short?	25%	10-40%
Are you feeding silage	45% YES	
Are you feeding meals?	56% Yes	
Where meals are being fed to cows, how much?	0.7 kg	0-2.3
Where meals are being fed to calves / in-calf heifers, how much?	1.1 kg	0-2
Did you have to sell stock to deal with the shortage	17% Yes	0-45%
Has fertiliser been spread in July	54% YES	