Assessing fodder stocks on farm

Calculating fodder requirements

Stock - 108 cows, 26 weanlings
Land - 44 ha dairy grazing, 12 ha out-farm
72-74 DMD for milking cows + weanling heifers
68 DMD for dry cows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silage required</th>
<th>Cows (t/DM)</th>
<th>Weanlings (t/DM)</th>
<th>Total (t/DM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74 DMD</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 DMD</td>
<td>151</td>
<td></td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be harvested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yield (t/DM)</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
<th>Total (t/DM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74 DMD</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 DMD</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard 4x4 bale = 220 kg DM
Each cow eats 400 kg DM (≈2 bales) per month
Don’t forget to add on a fodder reserve (at least 10%)

Assessing silage stocks

- L×W×H = volume (m³)
- Divide m³ by 1.35 = fresh tons @ 22%DM
- Multiply by DM (0.22) to get t/DM

Take home messages

- Calculate requirements for winter/area to be harvested
- Measure silage pit/bales to confirm tonnage in stock

Assessing silage stocks

Take home messages