

Failed crop Fodder Budgeting

It is very difficult to accurately calculate a fodder budget for a failed crop as we are unsure how the crops will change over time.

The best we can do is develop a number of budgets using different feed digestibility and grazing height estimates.

Sheep and cattle will select a diet better than the average quality of the overall feed on offer. Unfortunately at this point in time we do not know the digestibility or percentage makeup of leaf, stem or developing seed head?

The following calculations use a computer program called GrazFeed. While the formulas in the program are based on research from grazing pastures, it is hoped that the outputs will provide a reasonable estimate of livestock intake and performance.

Table 1. Estimated animal intake Kg of Dry Matter per day

Intake Kg/DM/Day	Energy MJ/kg DM				
	11.5	11.1	10.7	10.3	9.9
Dry ewe 50kg F3	1.33	1.31	1.27	1.21	1.14
4 months pregnant	1.35	1.33	1.29	1.23	1.16
2 weeks lactating	1.9	1.85	1.78	1.69	1.59
20kg wether lamb	1.07	1.12	1.09	1	0.98
30kg wether lamb	1.26	1.25	1.21	1.15	1.08
40kg wether lamb	1.41	1.39	1.35	1.28	1.21

Note: Calculations based on 2.7 ton of green dry matter per hectare..

Livestock intakes are likely to be similar on crops less than 2.7 ton of green dry matter per hectare if the height of the crop is above 8 cm.

Table 2. Estimated weight gain grams/hd/day

Weight gain grams/day	Energy MJ/kg DM				
	11.5	11.1	10.7	10.3	9.9
Dry ewe 50kg F3	98	91	75	52	29
4 months pregnant	48	42	28	7.2	-20
2 weeks lactating	-2	-9	-29	-58	-86
20kg wether lamb	193	185	164	133	100
30kg wether lamb	175	165	144	112	79
40kg wether lamb	157	148	126	95	62

Fodder Budget

How many head for a chosen time period?

Crop

Crop yield – Leaf/pod or stem (kg green DM/Ha) (A).....

Minimum to remain after grazing (B).....

Crop available (A-B) (C)_____

Grazing period (days) (D).....

Animal

Intake kg/DM:(from table 1) (E).....

Grazing days: (C) crop available ÷ (E) daily intake (F)_____

Stock/Ha for period: (F) grazing days ÷ (D) grazing period (G)_____

No.stock/Ha for period: (G) – spoilage % (H)_____

Paddock size (Ha) (I).....

How many head: (I) multiplied by (H)
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Grazing days for an existing mob?

Existing mob (No.head) (J).....

Head/Ha: (J) existing mob ÷ (I) paddock size (K).....

Intake Ha/day: (K) head per Ha x (E) daily intake (L).....

Days grazing: (C) crop available – spoilage % ÷ (L) Intake/Ha/day =

Spoilage rates with grazing animals can vary but 15% would be a reasonable average.

