Contents

Demand/Ha

What does Demand/Ha (in kg DM/Ha/day) mean and how is it calculated?

The Demand/Ha is calculated by adding up the grass intake of all stock that are grazing the area of grass that you have just measured, and then dividing by the total area measured.

Dairy Farm example

For a dairy farm the suggested grass intake for different types of dairy stock are…

Type of dairy stock	Grass DM intake (kg DM/day)
Large Holstein herd (~600kg)	19 – 20
High EBI Holstein herd (~550kg)	17 – 18
Jersey Crossbred herd (500-550kg)	16 – 17
Early lactation (up to 8 weeks in milk)	See Appendix 1 below for intakes post calving. (until max intake is achieved after 8 weeks)
Young Stock	2% of body weight (eg 400 kg LWT = 8 kg DM/day grass)

Example of dairy stock grazed on a platform of 50Ha measured

Type of dairy stock	Number	Grass intake/head (kg DM/head/day)	Grass intake total (kg DM/day)
High EBI Holstein cows	100	18	1800
Calves at 200 kg LWT	25	4 (2% of bodyweight)	100
Yearlings at 450 kg LWT	25	9 (2% of bodyweight)	225
		Total	2125

The total grass intake every day, or **Demand/Day**, is 2125 kgs of grass dry matter per day. Since this farm has 50 Ha measured, the **Demand/Ha** is 2125 / 50 = 42.5 kg DM/Ha/Day

Beef and Sheep farm example

All beef and sheep stock, with the exception of lactating ewes and their lambs, have their grass intake calculated based on 2% of their body weight. Lactating ewes and lambs change their grass intake based on weeks since lambing (see Appendix 2 below for details).

Example of a beef and sheep farm with a platform of 50Ha measured

Type of stock	LWT kgs	Number	Grass intake/head (kg DM/head/day)	Grass intake total (kg DM/day)
Suckler Cows	700	100	14 (2% of bodyweight)	1400
Calves	200	25	4 (2% of bodyweight)	100
Yearlings	450	25	9 (2% of bodyweight)	225
Lactating ewes average 9 weeks lambed		200	3.2 (See Appendix 2)	640
Lambs with ewes average 9 weeks born		300	0.3 (See Appendex 2)	90
			Total	2455

The total grass intake every day, or **Demand/Day**, is 2455 kgs of grass dry matter per day. Since this farm has 50 Ha measured, the **Demand/Ha** is 2455 / 50 = 49.1 kg DM/Ha/Day

Appendix 1 Intake of lactation dairy cows post calving

Week of lactation	Mature (600kg) cow intake (kg DM/cow/day)	Heifer intake (kg DM/cow/day)
1	10	8
2	11	8.75
3	12	9.5
4	13	10.25
5	1	11
6	15	11.75
7	16	12.5
8	17	13.25

Appendix 2 Intake of lactation ewes and their lambs post lambing

Week post lambing	Ewe intake (kg DM/ewe/day)	Lamb intake (kg DM/lamb/day)
1	2.4	0
2	2.4	0
3	2.4	0
4	2.4	0
5	2.4	0.1
7	2.4	0.1
8	3.2	0.3
9	3.2	0.3
10	3.4	0.5
11	3.2	0.5
12	3	0.7
13	3	0.7
14	2.5	0.8
15	2.5	0.8
16	2.3	1
17	2.3	1.2
18	0.8	1.2
19	0.8	1.2
20	1	1.2
21	1	1.2
22	1	1.2
23	1	1.2
24	1	1.2
25	1.3	1.2
26	1.3	1.2
27	1.3	1.2
28	1.6	1.2
29	1.6	1.2
30	1.6	1.2
31	1.6	1.2
32	1.6	1.2
33	1.6	1.2
34	1.6	1.2
35	1.2	1.2
36	1.2	1.2