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Why do an autumn feed budget?

An autumn feed budget is designed to allow you plan to have enough grass for feeding in October and November of the current year and that a suitable amount of grass is saved for early grazing in February of the following year. Effectively you build up extra farm cover in July, August and September for grazing in October and November and the following February.

What average farm covers do I need to aim for?

The target average farm covers to aim for depend on your stocking level. Heavily stocked farms need to aim for higher covers. See Appendix 1 on the last page of this document. For example, if your stocking levels in autumn will be approximately 3 LU/Ha, then the target average farm cover on October 1st is 1150 kgDM/Ha. Then aim to close the farm in November with an average farm cover of 600 to 650 kgDM/Ha.

Use the “Feed Budget” and then select “Add new feed budget”.

Create New Feed Budget

Feed Budget Name*	<input type="text" value="Feed Budget 2017"/>	Farm Area (Ha)*	<input type="text" value="30.52"/>
Start date*	<input type="text"/>	End date*	<input type="text"/>
Farm Cover at Start Date*	<input type="text"/>	Region to Use*	<input type="text" value="Connacht"/>
Include Stock*	<input type="checkbox" value="ADD NEW"/>	Enter notes here	
	<input type="checkbox" value="Spring Milkers"/>		
<input type="button" value="CANCEL"/>		<input type="button" value="SAVE"/>	

The Start date is the date you create the budget for the 1st time.

The End date is the date of housing

If the Start date is a future date enter an estimated start farm cover on that date.

Details		Choose stock type: Spring Milkers <input type="checkbox"/> Cows Calving				TARGET COVER (KG DM/HA)	PREDICTED FARM COVER (KG DM/HA)
WEEK START	AREA (HA)	SPRING MILKERS	GRASS INTAKE	MEAL INTAKE	SILAGE INTAKE		
18/08/2017	30.52	85	16	1	0		600
25/08/2017	30.52	85	16	1	0		701
01/09/2017	30.52	85	16	1	0		767
08/09/2017	30.52	85	14	1	2		833
15/09/2017	30.52	85	14	1	2		945
22/09/2017	30.52	85	14	1	2		1029
29/09/2017	30.52	85	16	1	0		1106
06/10/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		1145
13/10/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		1128
20/10/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		1105
27/10/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		1039
03/11/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		946
10/11/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		817
17/11/2017	30.52	85	17	0	0		661

Note, in the example above, the farm cover peaks at 1145 on week starting 06/10. Note also that 2 kilos of silage were fed for 3 weeks in September to build up this extra grass for October.

The farm is closing in week starting 17/11 with a cover of 661. A cover of 1145 in early October and 661 cover at closing is a good autumn plan according to Appendix 1 below.

In the screen above, change the values in **Area**, **Spring Milkers** or **Grass Intake** columns to change the Predicted farm cover on future dates.

Appendix 1 - Guidelines for target Average Farm Cover

Date	Average Farm Cover (AFC) Kg DM/Ha
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA	
1 st February	900
1 st March	700
4 th April	500
May, June, July	425
Mid - August	500
1 st September	750
Mid-September	1,000-1,100
1 st October	1,000
Fully Housed	550-600
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA	
1 st February	1000
1 st March	750
4 th April	550
May, June, July	510
Mid - August	750
1 st September	990
Mid-September	1100
1 st October	1150
Fully Housed	600-650
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA	
1 st February	1000
1 st March	800
4 th April	650
May, June, July	600
Mid - August	770
1 st September	980
Mid-September	1200
1 st October	1175
Fully Housed	700-750