



Feed Budgeting Made Easy

The following spreadsheet is designed for farmers to take the *scare factor* out of on farm feed budgeting.

There are three steps to work through. Input is required in the **yellow coloured boxes only** and all the calculations are carried out for you as you progress.

Step 1 is set up to define the feed budget period and works out how much pasture growth there will be over this period.

Step 2 allows space for you to input the feed supply that will be available on farm (kg DM/ha). This includes current average pasture covers over the whole farm, supplements such as crops, hay, balage and silage.

Step 3 is designed to allow input of feed demand for the different stock classes on your farm. It also allows an average target pasture cover to be set for the start of lambing/calving etc.

Step 1: Feed Budget Period and Pasture Growth

Enter the **Effective ha currently in pasture** for step 1 growth calculations. Effective ha

In the **Feed Budget Days** column enter the number of days per month your feed budget covers.

In the **Your Pasture Growth** column enter the rate of pasture growth per day for each month.

| Month | Days | Feed Budget Days | | Your Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day) | Total Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha) |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| January | 31 | | | | 0 |
| February | 28 | | | | 0 |
| March | 31 | | | | 0 |
| April | 30 | | | | 0 |
| May | 31 | | | | 0 |
| June | 30 | | | | 0 |
| July | 31 | | | | 0 |
| August | 31 | | | | 0 |
| September | 30 | | | | 0 |
| October | 31 | | | | 0 |
| November | 30 | | | | 0 |
| December | 31 | | | | 0 |
| Total Days → | 365 | 0 | Total Step 1 Growth kg DM → | | - |

Step 2: Calculate Feed On Hand

The **kg DM/ha** boxes below for the following sections are based on measured/estimated pasture covers and utilisable crop yields.

The **Effective ha** boxes below relate to the area (ha) of pasture or the area (ha) of each crop.

Current Average Total Pasture Cover Over The Farm

kg DM/ha
 Effective ha
 - ← Total kg DM

Supplement Feeds: (Utilisable Yield)

Crops

- 1 kg DM/ha
 Effective ha
 - ← Total kg DM
- 2 kg DM/ha
 Effective ha
 - ← Total kg DM
- 3 kg DM/ha
 Effective ha
 - ← Total kg DM
- 4 kg DM/ha
 Effective ha
 - ← Total kg DM

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 5 | <input type="text"/> | kg DM/ha | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Effective ha | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| 6 | <input type="text"/> | kg DM/ha | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Effective ha | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| 7 | <input type="text"/> | kg DM/ha | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Effective ha | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| 8 | <input type="text"/> | kg DM/ha | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Effective ha | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| | | | | | | | - ← Total Crop kg DM |
| Hay | | | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Number of Bales | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | kg DM/Bale | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| Balage | | | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Number of Bales | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | kg DM/Bale | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| Silage | | | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Tonnes | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | % DM | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| Other | | | | | | | |
| | <input type="text"/> | Total kg DM | | | | | - ← Total kg DM |
| | | | | | | | - ← Total Step 2 Feed On Hand kg DM |
| | | | | | | | - ← Total Step 1 kg DM + Step 2 kg DM |

Step 3: Stock Feed Demand & Target Pasture Cover

In the **Stock Type** column enter each class of stock.

In the **Number** column enter the number of stock in each class.

There are two time periods in this table to allow changes in feed demand at important times, e.g.

Period 1 tugging to scanning; **Period 2** scanning to lambing.

In the **Daily Demand** column enter how much each stock class will be offered.

In the **Number Of Days** column enter the number of days the daily demand of kg DM/day will be offered.

| | Stock Type | Number | Period 1 Daily Demand (kg DM/day) | Period 1 Number Of Days | Period 2 Daily Demand (kg DM/day) | Period 2 Number Of Days | Total Demand (kg DM) |
|----|------------|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | | | | | | | - |
| 2 | | | | | | | - |
| 3 | | | | | | | - |
| 4 | | | | | | | - |
| 5 | | | | | | | - |
| 6 | | | | | | | - |
| 7 | | | | | | | - |
| 8 | | | | | | | - |
| 9 | | | | | | | - |
| 10 | | | | | | | - |
| 11 | | | | | | | - |
| 12 | | | | | | | - |
| 13 | | | | | | | - |
| 14 | | | | | | | - |
| | | 0 | ← Total Number of Stock | | Total Stock Feed Demand | | ⇒ - |

Target Pasture Cover

In the **kg DM/ha** box below enter the target average total pasture cover required over the farm.

In the **Effective ha** box below enter the number of hectares this cover will be over.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--|---|
| <input type="text"/> | kg DM/ha | | |
| <input type="text"/> | Effective ha | | - ← Total Target Pasture Cover kg DM |
| | | | - ← Total Step 3 Stock Feed Demand & Target Pasture Cover |

Feed Budget Result

- ← Feed Budget Surplus/Deficit kg DM
 #DIV/0! ← Feed Surplus/Deficit kg DM/Effective Pasture ha