

BUYING STANDING CROPS

Forage should never be purchased on a per acre basis.

Forage should only be purchased on a per Tonne (T) basis. The dry matter of the crop should also be accounted for.

The value of any crop in the field is hugely dependent on how it yields and its quality.

Maize Silage:

True cost of standing Maize Silage depending on yield per Acre

| | | Yield per Acre (T) | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------|----|----|
| | | 15 | 20 | 25 |
| Cost per acre (€/ac) | 800 | | | |
| Cost per T Fresh weight (€/T) | | 53 | 40 | 32 |

The Dry Matter of the crop will also affect its cost. Paying €40/T for 25% Dry Matter (DM) Maize is much more expensive than 35% DM maize.

True cost of Maize depending on its Dry Matter:

| | | DM% | | |
|------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 25 | 30 | 35 |
| Maize cost per T (€/T) | 40 | | | |
| Cost per T DM (€/T DM) | | 160 | 133 | 114 |

Alternative Wet Feeds:

Alternative wet feeds may require additional storage/handling facilities, specialist balancer rations for protein and minerals, increased labour input and feed space requirements. All these issues need to be considered when purchasing forages. In addition, it should be asked, what are the cash-flow implications (payment immediately, at harvest, next spring etc.)?

Alternative wet feeds value is relative to the price of barley and soya.

| Crop | €/T |
|----------------|-----|
| Fodder Beet | 32 |
| Sugar Beet | 39 |
| Brewers Grains | 51 |
| Eornagold | 80 |
| Trafford Gold | 100 |
| Apple Pulp | 21 |
| Potatoes | 38 |

Assuming barley @ €180/T*, soya @ €340/T* and 10% losses.

**prices subject to market changes*

As barley and soya prices change, alternative feeds value will change.