

Fodder Beet Grazing Guide

Fodder beet is only suitable as part of your winter grazing feed plan.

A typical ration when feeding Fodder beet is 50-60% Fodder beet, 30-35% grass silage with the balance of the diet hay or straw. It is therefore similar to grazing brassica crops.

A daily limit of 4-5 kgs DM per adult cow is recommended. The hay and straw component of the diet is normally best feed to stock prior to accessing their daily ration of Fodder beet.



Tips for grazing Fodderbeet.

1. Know your yield before you start feeding the crop, get someone independent to assess your yield
2. Why are you feeding your stock? Is it a maintenance situation or are you trying to put weight / condition on your stock?
3. Know the weight of the animals you are feeding
4. Introduce your stock to fodder beet slowly for at least the first 7-10 days to lessen the chance of poor animal performance. Degrease the amount of pasture being offered and increase the amount of fodder beet on offer during this time. Don't allow hungry animal's access straight onto the crop until they have transitioned correctly i.e. new cows straight of the truck
5. Feed the entire crop off, bulbs and tops. This will ensure correct balance of crude protein
6. Shift to a new break once every day and use wide breaks with a "long face" for better utilisation
7. Allow access to supplementary feed and clean fresh water at all times

A typical analysis of a Fodder beet crop is:

Utilization: 70-80%. DM: 15-20%, Crude Protein: 10% and ME: 12-13+

Animal Health.

Early grazing of immature Fodder beet can lead to nitrate poisoning, a potential issue for all winter feed crops.

Fodder beet can produce a high proportion of its total dry matter yield from its tops. Excessive grazing of these tops can lead to scouring caused as the tops contain low levels of "Oxalates". The use of calcium is recommended when grazing Fodder beet.

Many of the stock health issues are more of an issue when your first start grazing Fodder beet so care during this period is critical. Check the mineral status of your stock regularly and adjust with trace elements as required.

Specialty Seeds recommends consultation with your local Vet prior to the start of grazing your Fodder beet crops.



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