



HARVEST 2021

Harvest 2021 began on July 14th under perfect harvesting conditions, and it was a bonus it lasted for the duration of the winter barley harvest. This weather gave way to record low moistures, averaging at 15% with some hitting 12% moisture. Crops were nicely established, and yields surpassed all expectations. To date we have over 30,000 tonnes of exceptional quality barley harvested which is safely in storage for use in our livestock feeds. While sustainability is hugely topical at the moment, it is with pride we source locally and sustainably grown raw materials to incorporate into our range of livestock diets. While harvesting is still on going, winter oat crop yields and grain quality are exceptional. The winter wheat harvest is set to commence in the coming weeks, with that in mind we would urge everyone to be conscious of their surroundings and be mindful of farm safety.



Straw Incorporation Measure (SIM)

Straw availability is currently topical among tillage and livestock farms alike. The Straw Incorporation Measure was put in place to incentivise farmers to chop straw and re-incorporate it into the ground which increases the level of soil organic carbon and improves soil health, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As livestock farmers actively try to secure straw for winter bedding and winter feeding, there are concerns that good quality straw may be chopped rather than baled. However, there is no need to panic as the large majority of barley straw will indeed be baled and sold to livestock farms. The table below illustrates that it is mainly crops that yield poorer quality straw, are entered into the scheme. There is a relatively low inclusion of barley and wheat straw in the scheme at a national level.

Straw Incorporation Measure (SIM)

Crop	Percentage of crop in SIM
Oil Seed Rape	69%
Oats	45%
Wheat	14%
Barley	5%

Most of the straw will be available for bedding or feed and we are hopeful that the crops remaining in the ground can be harvested in the idyllic conditions that we had for winter barley.



Harvest Photo Competition for 2022 Calendar



Don't forget to enter our **'best harvest photo'** competition to be in with a chance to have your photo included in our 2022 calendar! Email your entry to photos@brettbrothers.ie

The chosen winner will receive a €50 One 4 All Voucher.



Feeding of Beef Cattle at Grass

It is evident that beef animals have had the benefit of good grazing conditions despite the occasional rainfall. The grass quality in July has been disappointing with paddocks containing a large amount of stem and as a result there was less energy available to the animal from the plant. As we enter August, grass quality may decline further and with a buoyant beef trade it is recommended to begin supplementing finishing steers and heifers at grass. We advise 3 - 5 kg of **Beef Grass Finisher** or **Eurobeef Cubes**. Bulls that have been selected for intensive finishing will need to be housed in the coming weeks and started on a transitional diet so they can be safely built up to 8 - 12 kg depending on the finishing system and what other feed sources are available. It is not advisable to feed bulls outdoors for safety reasons.

Beef Grass Finisher Cube is a competitively priced feed that is carefully formulated with a high inclusion of cereals and soya hulls. It is designed with the purpose to supplement late summer and autumn grass for finishing steers and heifers. For more information contact your Brett's Sales Representative.



Heat Stress in Livestock

In July our Ruminant Support Team received concerned calls with regards to poor performing livestock in the extreme temperatures. The physical effects of heat stress are evident when temperatures are consistently above 24°C. Dairy cows had the added stress of walking to and from the parlour for milking which increased the instances of metabolic disorders such as milk fever and grass tetany. The excessive heat also decreases the feed intake of an animal, in turn reducing the energy the animal is taking in, which leads to reduced milk production, a decrease in milk protein and an increased number of cows repeating.

Cattle, calves and lambs also bore the brunt of the heat with reduced feed intake and signs of heat stress. Access to water and shade is critical when there are intense periods of sunshine. Dehydration in calves and lambs can be an issue and this stress leads to other issues such as upset rumens and scours. Hopefully the cooler temperatures forecast will see stock begin to thrive again.



Pay your account online and you could win an iPad worth €500!

From 1st July until December 15th, we will enter your name in a monthly draw for an iPad worth €500 if you pay your account online or over the phone by debit card. Credit card payments are not accepted.

Winners will be announced monthly!

For further information, please call 056 7755300

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