


## ALTERNATIVE BEDDING MATERIALS











## Reasons to Consider Alternatives



- ❖ Reduced availability of straw – prolonged wet weather during harvest
- ❖ Increased price of straw
- ❖ Straw that is available is of a poorer quality
- ❖ Earlier housing of stock so longer period of winter housing
- ❖ Likelihood that more bedding will be required this winter housing period due to wet silages
- ❖ Health & Welfare

## Alternatives Available




Woodchips  
Woodfines  
Sawdust  
Shavings  
Sand  
Peat  
Rape/Oat straw










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## Woodfines



- ❖ Finely chopped recycled wood – pallets, offcuts etc.
- ❖ Readily available from an Aberdeenshire based company
- ❖ Sold as different grades depending on process of removing contaminants
- ❖ £28 - £33/t depending on grade





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## Woodchips



- ❖ Generally softwood varieties used
- ❖ Widely used by the equestrian industry
- ❖ Biomass boilers have increased the demand
- ❖ £65 - £100/t



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## Shavings & Sawdust



- ❖ Usually available from local sawmills
- ❖ Widely used by the equestrian industry
- ❖ Shavings more commonly used for small animal bedding
- ❖ £65 - 75/t



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## Guide to Bedding Materials



	Physical Structure	Drainage	Mucking Out Interval	Fertiliser Value	Frequency of Bedding	Spreadability
Barley straw Oat straw Wheat straw	****	****	6 months	*****	1-2 days	***
Rape straw	*****	*****	6 months	****	1-2 days	**
Sawdust	*	****	1 - 2 months	*	In/out	**
Shavings	**	****	2 - 3 months	*	In/out	**
Woodfines	***	****	2 - 3 months	*	In/out	**
Wood Chips	****	*****	6 months+	*	In/out	*
Peat	***	*****	1 - 2 months	*****	2 - 3 weeks	***
Sand	***	*****	2 - 3 months	**	In/out	*

Star rating from \*\*\*\*\* = Excellent to \* = Poor



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## Considerations if using an alternative bedding;



- ❖ Cattle will still require a form of roughage
- ❖ Bedding material must be free from contaminants
- ❖ Some products require composting before being spread onto the land
- ❖ Storage



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# Thank You

