

News from the Farm Advisory Service:



Free Events

At the Farm Advisory Service we run a range of events both online and in-person.

Visit www.fas.scot/events to sign up or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

Improving Efficiency & Reducing Emissions
Online, 24th February, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Sustainable Sheep Systems - Alternative Proteins
Online, 25th February, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

New Entrant Finance Course Webinar 3 – Cashflow

Online, 26th February, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Keeping Livestock for Young or New Crofters
Portree, 1st March, 11:00am - 3:30pm

What to do if draff is unavailable?

Draff has become an important feed source within the dairy industry over the years, providing a good source of digestible energy and protein. The type of energy source provided by draff is high digestible fibre and it is low in starch which reduces the risk of acidosis in the rumen.



Draff may become unavailable, and you may need to consider alternative ingredients to supply those energy and protein levels within the ration. Alternatives that could be considered to replace the draff element of the diet include, but not restricted to, brewers' grains (or other moist distillery co-products e.g. Vitagold), distillers' dark grains or soya hulls.

- **Brewers grains** – a palatable, moist feed which is a co-product from the brewing industry.
 - » It can be fed in similar quantities, so if draff is unavailable, brewers' grains can be fed like for like in the ration.

Table 1. Nutritive value of draff on a dry matter basis and alternative options.

Feed Source	ME (MJ ME/kg DM)	CP (%)	Oil (%)	Starch (%)	DUP (%)
Draff	11.0 – 11.7	16.0 – 22.0	9.0	1.7	6.7
Brewers Grains	11.7	20.0 – 26.0	7.0	4.0	7.5
Distillers' Dark Grains	13.7 – 14.8	28.0 – 34.0	7.0 – 11.0	4.5 – 5.0	-
Soya Hulls	11.8	11.7	2.5	1.7	4.4
Rapeseed Meal	11.8	37.5	5.0	5.7	11.3

- **Distillers' Dark Grains** – a palatable, dry feed which is high in protein and energy, and can be in pellet or meal form. Protein and energy levels are higher than draff, therefore, quantity feed per head is lower.
 - » Distillers' dark grains can stimulate intakes of less palatable feed and improve milk yields.
- **Soya Hulls** – very palatable and typically used to bulk up a ration. A reasonable energy source which is rich in digestible fibre which assists in maintaining rumen pH and reducing the risk of acidosis.
 - » Protein content is lower; therefore, soya hulls would need to be fed alongside a protein rich feed like rapeseed meal.

Any changes to the diet should be discussed with your nutritionist to ensure that the alternatives for draff are providing the same quantity and quality of protein and energy sources to minimise the impact on milking performance.

Dr Cara Campbell, SAC Consulting

This article is part of the January edition of Milk Manager News. Read our full publication at: www.fas.scot/publication/milk-manager-news-january-2025/



Thrill of the Hill podcast - First aid on farm with Sean Magee

The NFU reports that despite accounting for only 1% of the working population, agriculture accounts for 20% of all deaths in the workplace.

In this episode, we speak to first aid trainer and practitioner Sean Magee about the importance of first aid in the rural environment, including how to seek help, assessing a casualty and tips for agricultural incidents as they occur.

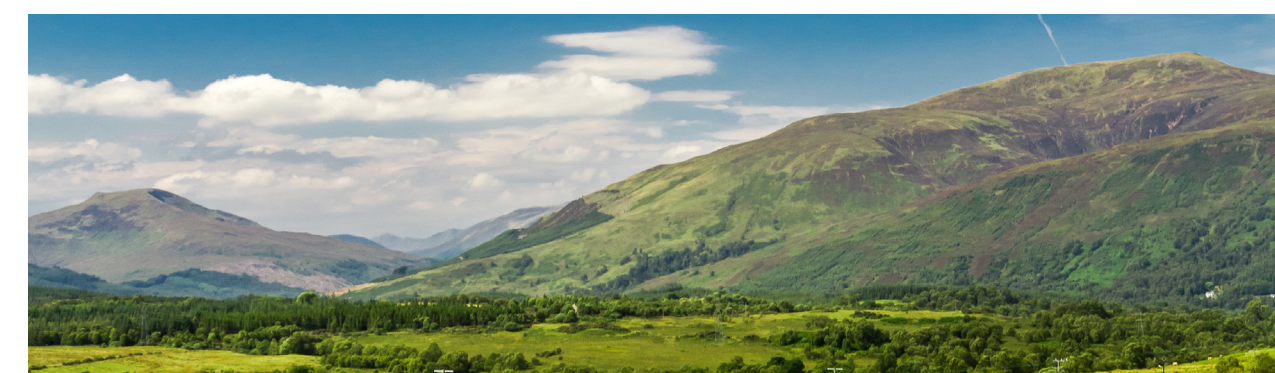
Find our podcast by using QR code below, or visit www.fas.scot/sounds



Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) Deadline

All claims must be submitted by 28th February 2025

Whole Farm Plan requirements for alternative practice (AP) claims



All businesses that claim BPS, including as a landlord under alternative practice (AP), need to have in place a minimum of the two activities listed below for the 2025 SAF, and all by 2028.

Carbon Audit

Can be done online using carbon calculator tools, or by an agricultural consultant.

Soil Analysis

All Region 1 land that receives fertiliser or manure that is seasonally let will be the responsibility of the landlord to test.

Animal Health & Welfare and Integrated Pest Management Plans

If claiming AP, it's assumed there's no livestock so landlords will require an IPMP. Done online annually, it covers the use of plant protection products, such as herbicides and pesticides.

Biodiversity Audit

A Habitat Map of the land identifying at a minimum the land cover, such as grassland, cropped land and woodland.

Tenant claiming BPS and Entitlements

As an AP claimant if you do not want to undertake the above activities you may consider offering your tenant the opportunity to claim. They would need entitlements, which can be leased rather than sold if that's the preferred option (please note the 2nd April deadline for transfers). A review of the rent can then be conducted to reflect this change, and amendments to any grazing leases or tenancy agreements undertaken.

It is recommended in the coming months for AP businesses to review what route is best to prepare for the future, particularly if they are unable to meet the new claim requirements.

Jennifer Galloway, SAC Consulting

This article is part of the February edition of Agribusiness News. Read our full publication at: www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-february-2025/

If you need more advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service has a range of support and help available:

Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics including cross compliance, water framework directive requirements, climate change and other technical issues call us on **0300 323 0161** or email advice@fas.scot. The advice line operates between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Bespoke Advice and Grants

FAS can also help you to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business through Scottish Government grants including Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMPs) – worth up to £2,000.

The ILMP will identify opportunities and cost savings for your business, based on an independent and confidential assessment of your business by an experienced farm business adviser of your choosing. As part of your plan you can choose to benefit from up to two further specialist advice plans.

Online

Our website contains articles, videos and much more at www.fas.scot