

# News from the Farm Advisory Service:



## Responding to hot weather

With an ever changing climate, weather patterns in Scotland are becoming more unpredictable and we are noticing more prolonged periods of extreme weather.

As we step into the summer, we could face more challenging hot weather, which can be damaging to crops and livestock welfare. FAS has created a page to provide guidance on what to do when hot weather hits.

Visit our website at [www.fas.scot/responding-to-changing-weather/](http://www.fas.scot/responding-to-changing-weather/) for more information



## FAS has a new range of newsletters!

Subscribe now to our new newsletters for the latest information, news and advice, all delivered straight to your inbox.

Visit [www.fas.scot/newsletters](http://www.fas.scot/newsletters) for more information

## Get funding to boost resilience and safeguard your wellbeing

Working in agriculture can be immensely fulfilling, yet it often comes with significant physical and emotional challenges. During periods of personal, professional, or political change, uncertainty about the long-term resilience of your farming or crofting business may take its toll on your physical and mental health.

Resilience measures a business's ability to manage uncertainty and factors impacting performance. If you want to adapt quickly to disruptions while maintaining continuous business operations and safeguarding people, Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS) can help you prepare for and respond to change.

Receive up to £2,000 of funding through FAS for an Integrated Land Management Plan

(ILMP), a holistic business review conducted by an experienced adviser, and a step-by-step action plan to ensure your farm or croft remains profitable and sustainable. Pair this with £3,200 of funding for Specialist advice, including Resilience planning, ideal for businesses looking to increase resilience to threats, changes in the market or personal circumstances. This can include financial analysis, output/profit/margin analysis, business risks and opportunities.

To learn more and apply for funding, visit our ILMP and Specialist Advice pages, found at [www.fas.scot/advice-grants/](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants/). For support choosing the best grant options and finding an advisor, contact FAS at [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) or **0300 323 0161**.

## How to reduce silage nutrient loss in the heat

The silage season is well underway,. However, with the recent hot and dry weather we need to remain conscious of the effect the weather has on silage quality.

Further losses in dry matter and sugars will also occur during wilting. This impacts the quality of preservation and nutritional availability in the crop, with high dry matter silage at a higher risk of secondary fermentation and moulds.

### Top tips

- Aim for short rapid wilt ≤12hrs (i.e., best to cut in the a.m., ted, row and bale/pit by the p.m. if possible).
- Avoid overworking (tedding and conditioning) very high DM silage or crops high in clover due to the risk of leaf shatter.
- Aim for a dry matter of between 30-35% for optimum preservation of silage.
- High dry matter crops may benefit from a silage additive to aid preservation and prevent further nutrient losses in the clamp or bale.
- Review forage stocks at cutting to ensure there is sufficient availability to meet demand – also consider a buffer if earlier supplementation is required.

During this spell of hot weather, it is also important to continually monitor dry matter availability for grazing to maintain the performance of the stock on farm. For sheep it is possible to wean lambs from between 8-12 weeks - if grazing is short it may be a consideration to wean lambs to free up availability for the growing lambs and reduce the demand of the ewes to ease grazing pressure.

Lorna Shaw, SAC Consulting



## Free Events

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

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

### Soil Myth Busting Series

Scottish Borders, 28th May, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Aberdeenshire, 29th May, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

### Unlock Profit from your Farm Accounts

Stirling, 27th May, 10:00am - 3:30pm

### Farm Wildlife Walks - Lothians

Midlothian, 29th May, 9:30am - 12:00pm

### Biodiversity Audit Meeting - Stirling

Stirling, 30th May, 10:00am - 2:00pm

### Deer Farming - Tullynessle Deer Farm

Alford, 30th May, 10:30am - 3:00pm

## Nature's waste disposal team - why healthy dung matters

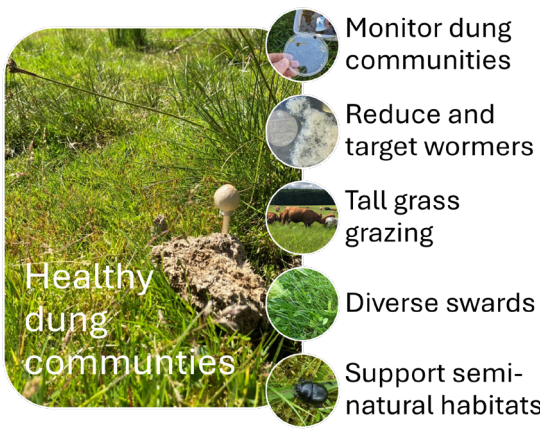
As lambs frolic in our fields and cattle head back to grass, many farmers are glad to swap the daily routine of mucking out. Out in the field, it's time for nature's waste disposal team to take over.

The dung in our fields is teaming with life. Dung beetles, flies, fungi and bacteria are hard at work recycling valuable nutrients back into the soil. With the current high costs of synthetic fertilisers; where there's muck, there's brass.

These tiny workers improve sward utilisation and disrupt the lifecycle of worms and flukes, helping to control parasites and naturally reducing our reliance on wormers and flukicides.

So how can we help these unsung heroes? Veterinary medicines pose a threat to dung-dwelling critters, so it is essential to target treatment based on faecal egg counts and visible signs of infestation. Grazing management also plays a key role. Long rest periods between grazing reduces the risk of livestock picking up parasites from dung. Species-rich grasslands and multi-species swards bring additional benefits with plants like bird's-foot trefoil and chicory having natural anthelmintic properties.

Spring is the perfect time to start surveying your dung. Take a closer look to see what is living in the dung. Monitoring dung fauna gives a real insight into your farm's ecological health.



Healthy dung communities are indicators of a healthy farm ecosystem. They save money, support animal welfare and reduce the need for synthetic fertilisers and veterinary medicines.

Dr Lorna Cole, SAC Consulting

For further information, articles, videos and more visit our website at [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service is funded by the Scottish Government. It is delivered by SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College, and Ricardo Energy and Environment.



National Advice Hub  
T: 0300 323 0161  
E: [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot)  
W: [www.fas.scot](http://www.fas.scot)

If you need advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service can help

### Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics, including the Whole Farm Plan, cross compliance, water framework directive, and other technical issues, call us on **0300 3232 0161** or email [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot). The advice line operates between 9 am–5 pm Monday to Friday.

### Funded advice and grants

**Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMP).** Up to £2,000 of funding is available for you to commission an adviser to undertake a confidential assessment of your business and develop a step-by-step action plan.

**Specialist advice.** Get support to take a deeper look at specific issues of concern or interest. You are eligible to receive specialist advice for two topics with £1,600 of funding per topic (see [www.fas.scot/specialist-advice](http://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice)).

**Mentoring for new entrants.** If you are new to farming, you can receive up to **four days of FREE**, one-to-one Mentoring support from an experienced farmer or crofter.

### Online

More information can be found at [www.fas.scot/advice-grants/](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants/)



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Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot