Wet Weather Recovery Spring 2018

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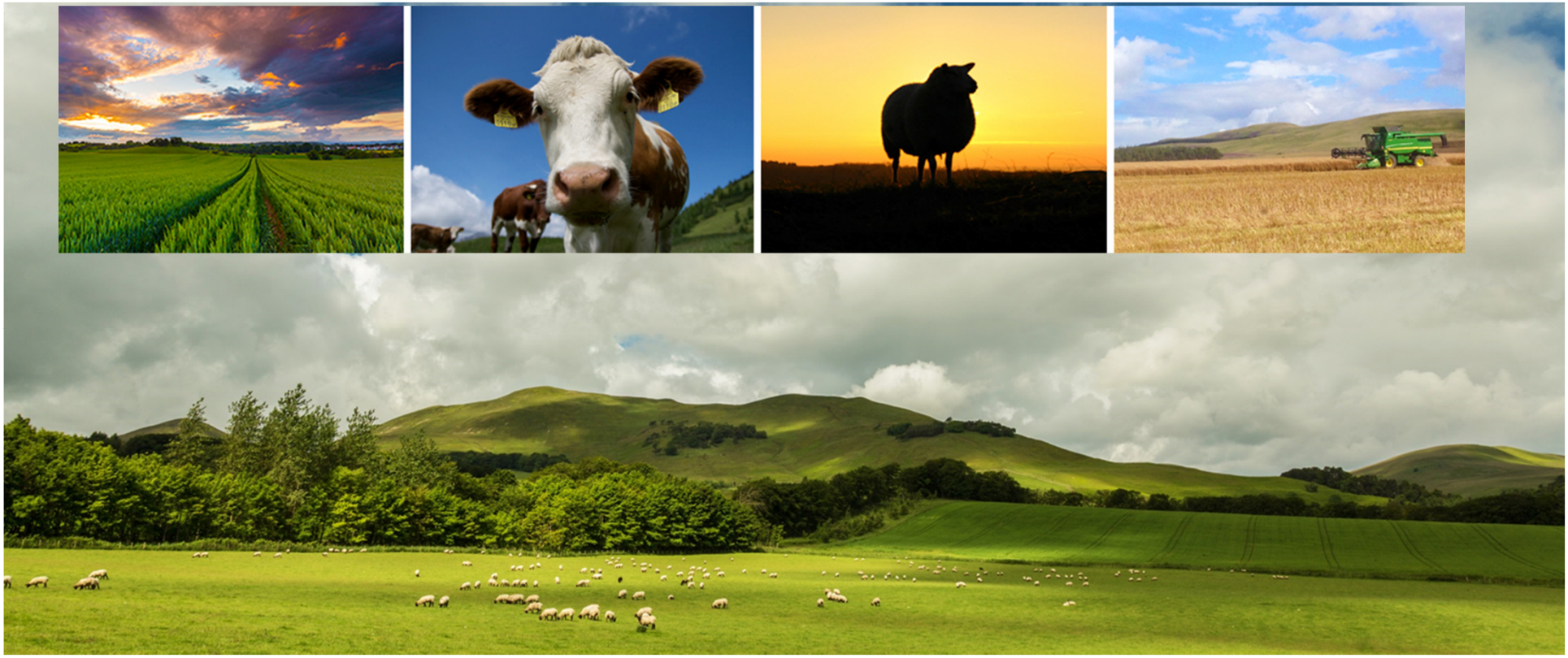

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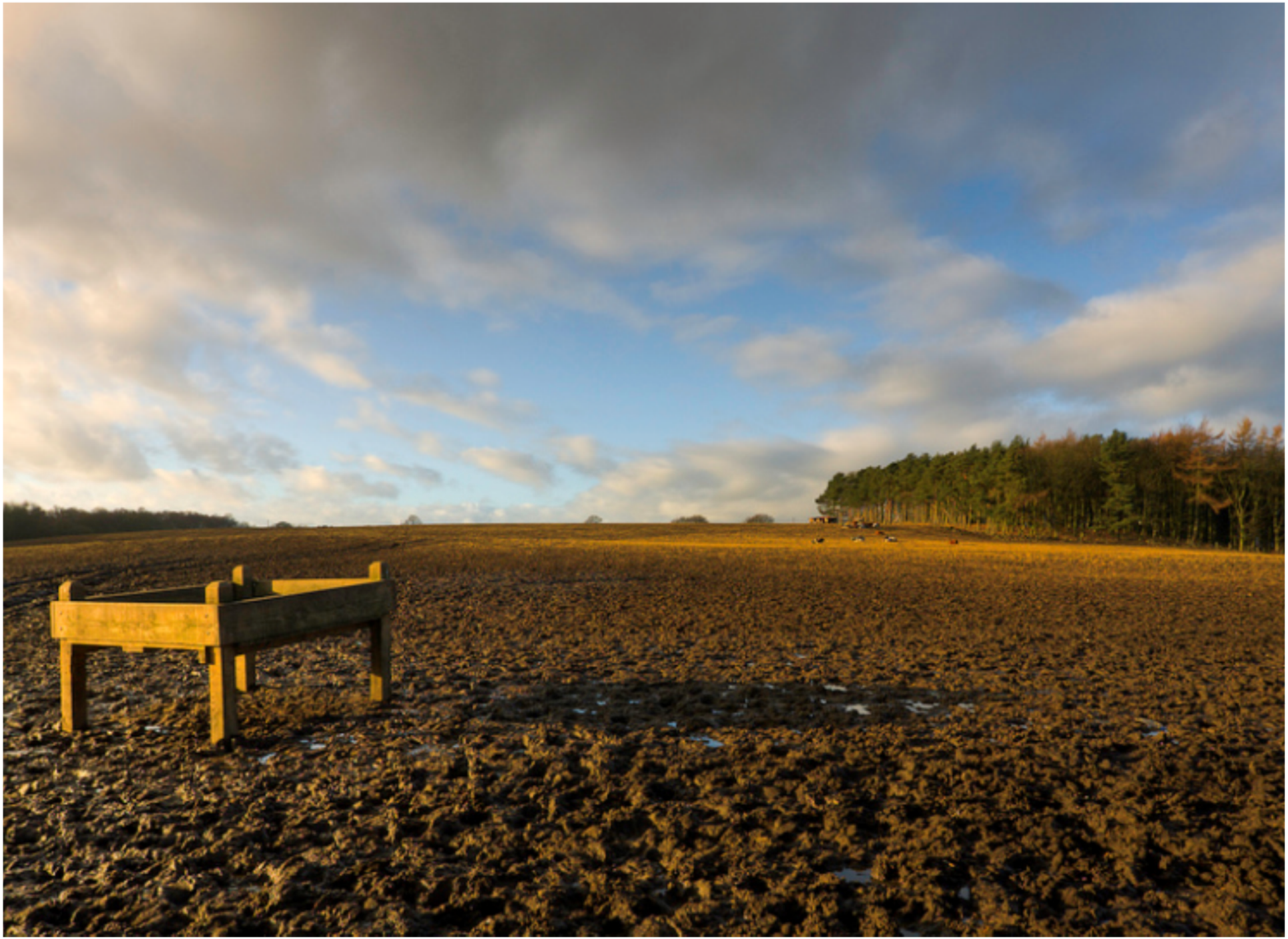

Agenda

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- Feed shortage topics
- Bedding topics
- Animal health topics
- Rebuilding the buffer: planning for silage 2018
- Looking after #No 1
- Sources of help

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Feed Shortage

- Forage budgeting
- Alternative forages
- Reducing number of mouths
- Remember:
  - Analyse silage – Dry Matter (DM) %
  - Balance rations – protein, energy, minerals

Bedding

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- Reduce quantity needed
- Reduce moisture collected
  - Scraped areas, ventilation, diet
- Alternative materials
- Prioritise what you have
- Out-wintering

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Bedding

- **Cereal Straw**
  - Absorb 2 – 2.8 litre/kg (oat, wheat, barley)
- **Woodchip**
  - Free draining rather than absorbent
- **Sawdust/shavings**
  - Absorb 1.5 – 2.5 litre/kg (softwood best)
- **Paper products**
  - Moisture content variable
- **Rape straw**
  - Free draining rather than absorbent, very stalky
- **Miscanthus**
  - Challenging to dry sufficiently
- **Other?**
  - Bracken? Sand?

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Get an Early Turnout?

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- Early N
  - Apply from early Feb (about 20-25 units)
  - UREA

- Early-ish P
  - Phosphate uptake poor when conditions cold. Boost of soluble phosphate early can be helpful.

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Maximising Silage 2018
QUANTITY

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Nitrogen

- Grass utilises 2.5 kg N/ha per day *(1.25 units/ac)*
- Apply 6 weeks pre-turnout (or T-Sum 200)
- Nitrogen for 1st cut: 120 kg/ha *(100 units/ac) 8 weeks pre-cutting*
- ***Max use across whole season 310 kg N/ha (250 units) silage; 270 kg grazing (216 units).***

pH

- Soil sample and lime
  - Ground limestone, ***granular lime***

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Maximising Silage 2018
QUALITY

1. Sugary grasses
   - Reseeding
2. Good (complete, quick) fermentation
   - Sugars, weed control, timing of fertiliser application, rolling, sheeting, additives
3. Minimise losses
   - Above plus face management.

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Grassland Recovery & Repair

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- Drainage & compaction
- pH and nutrient status
- Minimally invasive techniques
  - Overseeding/stitching etc
- Full reseed
  - Nutrition
  - Timing
  - Grass varieties

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Look After #1

- Mental wellbeing – your mental state – how you are feeling and coping.

  – Fluid state – at any one time 1 in 4 of us will suffer some sort of mental health problem.

Look After #1

- Weather
- Long hours
- Isolation
- Animal health
- Money
- Subsidy payments
- Uncertainty of income
- Paperwork
- Family issues
- Bereavement
- Separation
- etc

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Look After #1

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- Most common mental health complaints are stress, depression and anxiety.

- Reluctance to talk about it but campaigns like ‘Are Ewe Ok?’ trying to change that.

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Look After #1

- The signs?
  - Someone not themselves
  - Teary
  - Unable to sleep/sleeping more
  - Alcohol abuse
  - Isolating themselves
  - Fearful
  - Sad
  - Erratic behaviour
  - Withdrawn
  - Angry
  - Not eating/overeating
  - No concentration
  - Suicidal thoughts
  - Etc

Look After #1

- How to help others
  - Talk – ask you they are.
  - Listen, don't be judgemental.
  - Suggest help – GP, Samaritans, RSABI etc.

Look After #1

- How to yourself
  - Talk – express your emotions
  - Get sociable
  - Exercise
  - Learn something new
  - Eat well
  - Get the help you need

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Look After #1

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Knowing the pressures, the signs and where to get help is important. However finding the courage to ask the question '**how are you?**' when you see the signs or **getting help when you know you aren't quite 'right'** can make the biggest difference of all.

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Look After #1

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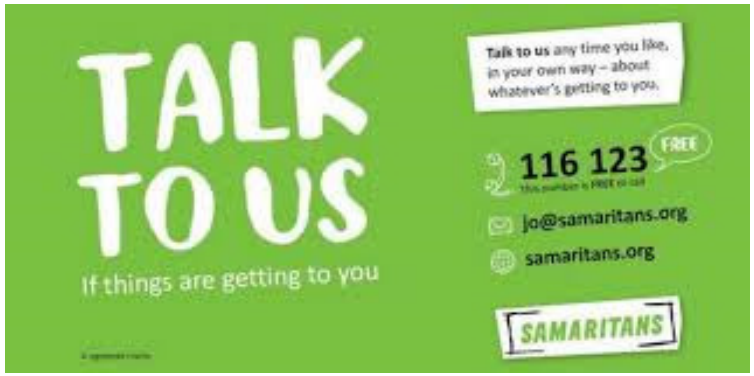
- RSABI
- Samaritans
- Police
- GP



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Further Advice

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ILMP

FAS Helpline 0300 323 0161

SAC 01387 261172

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Alternative Forages
When cheap isn't cheap!

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- Silage (25% DM) @ £25/tonne = £100/t DM
- Haylage (55% DM) @ £35/tonne = £54/t DM
- Straw (86% DM) @ £140/tonne = £163/t DM
- Swedes (11% DM) @ £30/tonne = £272/t DM
- Cake/rolls (86% DM) @ £220/tonne = £255/t DM

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Alternative Forages Nutritional Balance

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Feed	ME (MJ)	CP% (Crude Protein)
Baled silage (typical 'average' quality)	10.0	11%
Barley straw	8.6	3.5%
Swedes	14.0	9%
Potatoes	13.3	9%
Carrots	12.8	10%
Beet Pulp Pellets	12.5	10%

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Alternative Forages Nutritional Balance

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- Mid/poor quality silage ideal for suckler cows – 10 ME, 9 % CP
- Most alternative forages v low protein. Some very high energy. Not ideal.
  - 'expensive' silage might be good value?
  - use purchased (high energy) forages for youngstock to maximise growth and keep poorer silage for cows?
  - can store cattle be finished on cereal-based diet?

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Dry Matter Intake

- Highly variable
  - Pregnancy, lactation, temperature, etc
    - Dry suckler cow 1.2 – 1.7% of LW
    - Lactating suckler 1.6 – 2.5% of LW
    - Store cattle 1.5 – 2% of LW
- Minimum 40% of DMI as forage.
- NDF of >25% of whole diet – risk of acidosis otherwise

Actions

1. Measure silage stocks, analyse silage, prepare forage budget.
2. Minimise the number of mouths to feed.
3. Look carefully at what you're buying – value, energy, protein, dry matter.
4. Steading maintenance and adaptation.
5. Animal health plan and keep in touch with the vet.
6. Apply urea.
7. Soil sample and prepare fertiliser plan.
8. Consider longer-term plan for drainage, compaction, liming.
9. If you don't feel 'right' ask for help. Ask others 'Are you ok?'.

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Forage Budget Exercise

Two farmers have identical stock to feed, but have different pits of silage – A and B.

Have they enough silage?

- Spring calving suckler cows x 65
  - Need 5.5 tonnes/cow
- Suckled calves x 65
  - Need 3.5 tonnes/calf

Forage Budget Exercise

Two farmers have identical stock to feed, but have different pits of silage – A and B.

Have they enough silage?

- Spring calving suckler cows x 65
  - Need 5.5 tonnes/cow **of 25% DM silage (1.37 tonnes dry matter)**
- Suckled calves x 65
  - Need 3.5 tonnes/calf **of 25% DM silage**
  - **(0.88 tonnes dry matter)**