

“How do I know when to cut for arable silage, wholecrop or crimp grain?”

Arable silage is harvested earliest at around 35% DM, wholecrop is harvested later at around 50% dry matter. For crimping, cereal grains harvested at 35-45% moisture content (55-65%DM) have reached optimum nutrient level. Typically harvested 3 weeks earlier than dry combined crops.

“Which variety of fodder beet should I grow?”

The answer depends on whether you aim to lift or graze. Varieties have low (10-14%), medium (14-17%) or high (17-20%) dry matter. Lower dry matter varieties sit higher in the soil and are more suitable for grazing; higher dry matter varieties sit lower in the soil and are more suitable for lifting. For example Feldherr; 13.8%DM and Blizzard; 21.1%DM.

Canolfan Datblygu Tir Glas, Prifysgol Aberystwyth
Grassland Development Centre, Aberystwyth University,
Gogerddan, Ceredigion SY23 3EB
Tel: (01970) 823026 / 823028 /Fax: (01970) 828357