



FEDERATION OF WELSH GRASSLAND SOCIETIES

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PRESS RELEASE

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2008 SILAGE COMPETITION RESULTS

1. The All Wales Silage Competition is run in conjunction with the RWAS and is sponsored by NatWest Bank.

The final judges were Martin Doyle of NatWest Bank, last years winner Mr David Davies, Gwarffynnon, Lampeter and Mr John Evans ex ADAS. They were impressed with the excellent standards of silage quality which had been achieved in a less than ideal season and enjoyed the challenge in deciding on a winner. John Evans said "This year's winning silage and the runner up both presented silages of very high quality. The winner came out on top by a narrow margin. In the final inspection, the winner showed an excellent level of grassland productivity as well as a very good level of animal production from silage."

Winner: Mr John Harries, Felindre Farm, St Nicholas, Fishguard. North Pembrokeshire Grassland Society

John Harries farms 450 acres at Velindre Farm on which he runs a herd of 360 dairy cows plus followers. The winning silage with DM 30%, ME 12.1, CP 14.8, NH₃-N 5.5 an Intake Potential of 107 is the foundation for annual milk sales of 8000l /cow. The farm has a 3 cut system, May, June and August producing 3700t of conserved forage.

Runner Up: Mr Phillip Williams, Greenway Farm, Llanhamlach, Brecon. Brecon Grassland Society

Mr Williams runs a Beef, sheep and arable unit of 799 acres. 264 acres of arable, 1300 ewes and replacements plus 280 finishing cattle under 24 months and 26 sucklers. Silage analysis under a 2 cut system showed DM 30%, ME 11.8, CP 14.8, NH₃-N 5.0 and an intake potential of 111.

Finalists:

Mr R Williams, Cae Morfa, Pontilyfni, Caernarfon Gwynedd. South Caernarfon G.S
Mr Richard Evans, Cynfal, Bryn Crug, Tywyn, Gwynedd. Meirionnydd G.S
Mr T G Morgan, Cwrt Ceredigion
Mid Cardiganshire G.S

2. The All Wales Big Bale Silage Competition is sponsored by Border Farm Supplies and BPI Agriculture. The judges for this years final round, which also attracted a good entry from across Wales, were Rhun Fychan of IGER and last years Runner up Mr Roger Ridgeway, Clovers Farm, Letterston, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire and Mel John of BPI Agriculture. The judges noted the wide range of farm systems in which Baled Silage is now used and which were represented in the final round of competition. *'The competition produced some very good silage analyses and the winners were those who combined this good silage quality with consistency, and good management, across their silage stock'*

Jonathan Thomas, Trewilym Farm, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest, Pembs North Pembrokeshire G.S

Mr Thomas runs a 361 acre Organic dairy system which includes a (66 acre) arable unit. 90 milking cows plus followers and 50 beef animals. Analysis showed a DM of 49%, CP 20%, ME 12.8 Ammonia-N of 3.5 and Intake Potential of 131. All 1300 tonnes of forage is based on red and white clover and obviously receives no inorganic fertilizers. The cows yield 5500l under a strip grazing system.

Runner Up: E & N Phillips, Black Meadows, Llantilio Crossenny, Abergavenny Monmouth G.S

Messers Phillips run a 193 acres. This unit has a pedigree beef herd of 60 cows and 80 youngstock. They also produce winter forage for the equine people in their area. This is proving to be a sound alternative business. Analysis showed DM 57.7% ME 12.4, CP 15.3 and Ammonia-N 3.9.

Finalists:

Mr Islwyn Owen, Cefnbodig, Llanycil, Bala, Gwynedd. Meirionnydd G.S
Mr G Jones, Parciau Home Farm, Parciau, Ynys Mon Anglesey G.S
Mark & Catherine Davies, Glanyfer, Crosswell, Eglwyswrw, Pembs.

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