

### **Does forage rape need much fertiliser?**

When grown as a catch crop after cereals lower nitrogen rates than recommended (RB209) can be used where soil indexes are at 0 and 1 with further reductions at index 2 and 3. If soil is moist and has been cultivated additional reductions may be made. At index 3 in these conditions 1cwt/ac of Nitram would be sufficient with no P and K. Under these conditions at index 2, 2cwt of 20-10-10 an acre would be sufficient. Forage rape has a lower requirement for fertiliser in general than turnips, kale or Swedes.

### **How much rape should I feed every day?**

It all depends on the liveweight of the cattle/ sheep, the yield of the crop and the percentage of rape in the diet.

Make an assessment of how much dry matter / m<sup>2</sup> the crop is yielding by weighing the rape from a metre square of the crop e.g 6kgs, and multiplying by 12% (crop dry matter) to give you kgDM/m<sup>2</sup>. Starting with a total intake requirement (kgDM/day) based on being 3% of the liveweight, rape would be about 70% of this- say 10kgDM/d for a store weighing 480kg. Hence, if DM yield was 0.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, each animal would need 14m<sup>2</sup> a day. If the fence line is 100 metres each animal needs 0.14m a day. 50 animals would need 7metres/day.