

A Shortage Of Straw!

Straw is likely to be extremely scarce again this winter. Not only has little or no straw been carried over from last winter but also this year's crops have responded to the last spring by heading at a lower height. Experienced crop workers have never seen crops so short.

The final point is that with the shortage of silage more straw will have to be fed this winter.

Action Points

- Try and source as much straw as possible **NOW**.
- If you grow more straw than you normally use, bale it all this year – it could well be more valuable per tonne than the grain!
- Don't waste straw by leaving it outside. Ensure it is all stored dry either in buildings, under heavy plastic sheets or tubelined.
- Bale all bean/pea haulm for either feed or bedding.
- On light fields which are being sown next spring, consider outwintering some stock for a few months.
- Check cattle sheds now to prevent rainfall, troughs leaking into the bedding and consider forming a cemented feed stance which can be scraped once or twice a week to minimise bedding requirements next winter.

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