

Best practice cropping guidelines

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- What crop fits my system? Feed holes, equipment, farm set up and time etc....
- Align yourself with a merchant for good advice.
- Liaise with contractors for spraying and ground work etc.
- Identify poor performing grass paddocks to renovate, weeds, drainage.
- Soil test 6 months prior to correct fertility and pH depending on what crop you are growing.
- Sow a winter crop the autumn before: oats, annual, kale or forage rape.
- Use the 'stale seed bed technique' if coming out of winter crop.
- Spray out 3 – 10 days prior to cultivation or drilling.
- Cultivate ground and apply and base fertilizer prior to planting.
- If drilling fodder beet precision drill.
- Drill other crops with disc or roller drill depending on the method.
- Spray pre emerge chemical if required.
- Monitor crops through establishment for pests and weeds etc.
- Spray post emerge chemical if required.
- Side dress with nitrogen and any other fertilizer if required.
- Keep monitoring crops for any pests and weeds.
- Get advice as the best way to feed off crops. Fodder beet cows need to be transitioned on to the crop and mineral lick needs to be fed along with the crop.

Growing costs

Chicory: \$1505/ha

Chicory Yield (tDM/ha)	Cost	
	c/kgDM	c/MJME
12	12.5	1.0
14	10.7	0.8
16	9.4	0.7
18	8.3	0.6

Turnips: \$1200/ha

Turnip Yield (tDM/ha)	Cost	
	c/kgDM	c/MJME
10	12.0	0.9
12	10.0	0.8
14	8.5	0.7
16	7.5	0.6

Forage rape: \$1645/ha

Forage rape Yield (tDM/ha)	Cost	
	c/kgDM	c/MJME
12	13.7	1.1
14	11.8	0.9
16	10.3	0.8
18	9.1	0.7

Fodder beet: \$3000/ha (approx. average cost)

Fodder beet Yield (tDM/ha)	Cost	
	c/kgDM	c/MJME
20	15.0	1.0
25	12.0	0.9
30	10.0	0.8
35	8.5	0.7

Oats: \$500/ha

Oat Yield (tDM/ha)	Cost c/kgDM
4	12.5
6	8.3
8	6.3
10	5.0

NB: Growing costs on this flyer are approximate and will vary from farm to farm.