

5500 litres from forage?



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**Barton Close Farm , Spreacombe
North Devon**

Aims

- Originally a high yielding Holstein herd
- Conversion to organic status in 2000
- Needed to improve forage quality
 - animal health
 - longevity
 - profit



Soil Health is the key to forage quality
and yield

Cover crops

Compost



Keep fertility in top horizon



A photograph of a field with rows of young green plants and visible weeds, illustrating the concept of weed management. The plants are arranged in neat rows, and the soil between them is dark brown and appears to be recently tilled. The weeds are small, green, and scattered throughout the field, particularly in the foreground and middle ground. The background shows a larger expanse of green grass or a field, with a wooden fence or structure visible in the distance under a clear sky.

Weed management



Cereal management

Blind weeding critical

A wide-angle photograph of a vast agricultural field. The foreground and middle ground are filled with rows of young, green cereal plants, likely wheat or barley, planted in neat, parallel lines. The rows recede into the distance, creating a strong sense of perspective. The soil between the rows is a dark, rich brown. In the far distance, a thin line of trees or a horizon line is visible under a pale, overcast sky with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is one of a well-maintained, large-scale farming operation.

Forage management

Quality not quantity for 1st cut

Bulk and protein from later cuts and bi-crops



Crop rotation

- White clover/permanent ley- *predominately grazing*
- 2 yrs Italian ryegrass/red clover-*mainly forage*
- Fodder beet
- Spring barley/pea – lupicalbage
- Spring barley undersown



FODDER BEET



Forage analysis

	DM (%)	ME	CP	Starch	NDF
1 st cut grass/wc	26	12.4	12.9	-	47.8
Triticale/lupins	54	9.5	12.1	19.8	56.2
S Barley/peas	29.9	9.7	13.7	21.3	47.4
Crimped Trit	63.0	12.3	7.4	60.3	12.0



New Sheeting



Feeding





Diet (40 litres) 2006

ingredient	Kg fresh weight
Grass/wc 1 st cut	36 .0
Wholecrop pea/barley	7.0
Wholecrop wheat	3.0
Crimp	3.00
Blend (18%)	3.50
Soya	1.0
Mins/vits/yeast	0.25

Formulation summary 2006

	kg
DMI	26.54
NDF (%)	41.48
CP (%)	13.5
M/D (MJ /Kg DM)	11.13
Starch (%)	12.5
DM from forage (%)	76.3

38p/l

8600 litres/cow

5500 l from forage

Diet (30 litres) now

ingredient	Kg fresh weight
Grass/wc 1 st cut	20.0
Wholecrop pea/barley	10.0
Wholecrop trit/lupin	10.0
Fodder Beet	10.0
Crimp	2.00
Blend (18%)	4.3
Soya	1.0
Mins/vits/yeast	0.125

DMI 23.7kg
NDF 35.5%
CP 15.3%

Herd size	143
Milk yield	7366
Milk fat	4.33
Milk protein	3.41
SCC	238,000
Bactoscan	40
urea	169
Av herd lactations	7
CR to 1 st service (last 3 months)	60%
Days to conception	105
Calving index	381

Lameness no longer a problem

36 cases of mastitis in last 12 months



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