

LANAgM5 – SQA Unit Code H58N 04

Plan and manage grass and forage harvesting and storage



Overview

This standard covers the need to plan and manage grass and forage harvesting and storage. Forage management is a key area in determining the profitability of livestock enterprises.

This standard covers the varied forage systems in use on livestock farms, especially dairy farms, and is for those conserving large quantities of forage. It includes harvesting, storage and crop utilisation.

This standard is suitable for farmers, farm managers and farm advisers.

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 plan and manage the harvest and storage of grass and forage crop(s), minimising crop losses and effects on quality
 - P2 assess the crop and land is in a condition suitable for harvesting
 - P3 manage storage facilities in accordance with the forage and environmental requirements
 - P4 evaluate the use of additives in promoting forage quality
 - P5 assess the quality and quantity of stored crops
 - P6 monitor forage crop volumes in store and relate to requirements taking appropriate action if needed
 - P7 check storage management during feeding to minimises effect on waste and quality
 - P8 ensure working methods promote health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the importance of planning and managing the harvest and storage of grass and forage crop(s) to ensure profitability of the enterprise
- K2 resources required to harvest and store grass and forage crops
- K3 how to evaluate the cost benefit of various methods of harvesting including, for example, contractors and machinery rings
- K4 the factors which could impact on crop losses during harvesting
- K5 conditions that indicate the crop and land is suitable for harvest
- K6 how to interpret any analyses of harvested crop
- K7 the mode of action of additives for crops and when their use may be cost effective
- K8 factors linked to poor storage and how they will influence the quality of the conserved crops
- K9 various methods of storing crops and how those facilities should be maintained
- K10 how to manage forage whilst in storage
- K11 how to plan and calculate the quantity of forage in store at any given time
- K12 suitable methods for disposing of waste in relation with legislative requirements
- K13 health, safety and legislative requirements in relation to harvesting, storage and crop utilisation

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Suite Agricultural Management

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