

Replacement Barn at Pog Hall Farm
Silage, Hay, Bedding and Beef Ration Requirements

Silage and haylage used for feed can be wrapped and stored outside. Hay is better for pregnant cows however so they do not get too fat. Stephen intends to feed silage/haylage and some hay. The hay would need to be stored inside. 10-12kg of feed per day is required for the in-calf heifers and in-calf cows and this will be achieved through half and half silage/haylage and hay. This equates to around 5kg of hay (for 12 cows) per day over 182 days of them being inside. The in-calf heifers would weigh maybe 500kg compared to the in-calf cows at say 550kg so we can say roughly the same amount of hay both categories.

10,920kg of hay is therefore needed for the autumn/winter period 2021. Mini Heston bales weigh around 250kg so this equals 44 bales, (though this can be rounded up to 50, as the calves would also be on ad-lib hay). Stephen cannot store all these at once so would want to buy as many at a time as he can store. Mini Heston bales (measuring approx. 2.4 x 0.9 x 0.9m) can be stacked 3 high. Half of the hay requirement can be ordered and stored (24 bales).

The calves will be on a beef ration which comes in large tonne bags which need to be stored inside. The 6-12 month old calves would need approx. 5kg feed a day, (a 4kg ration and ad-lib hay), so would need 7280kg beef ration for the winter period, so 8 bags effectively. 4 can be bought and stored at a time to prevent mould growth. These measure just under 1m x 1m x 1m.

In addition to the above all the cows and calves would need straw bedding which would need to be stored inside. With 12 cows and 10 calves Stephen would need to top-up with one small round bale (approx. 1.2m dia.) of straw every other day. This is a lot of straw which he would have to be buying in quite frequently as there is not enough room to store much of this. He expects to buy 24 at a time.