

Average farm cover

Calculate the average cover on your farm regularly as set out in **Section 4 (Example 4.4)** using field cover assessments made with a rising plate meter (**Section 3**).

**PHOTOCOPY THIS SHEET TO
ALLOW REPEATED USE.**

Field Number or Name	Area (ha)	Recorded Cover (kg DM/ha)	Total Field Cover (kg DM/field)
	A	B	C = (A x B)
Example - Oaktree field	4.1	2800	11,480
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
Total			
Average Farm Cover (Total Column C ÷ Total Column A)			

As a very general rule, you need the average farm cover to be between entry level at grazing, typically 2800kg DM/ha, and target residual of 1500kg DM/ha, which equates to 2150kg DM/ha so the above needs to reduce by increasing demand. You may go below this average of 2150kg in spring

when growth rates are increasing quickly, as there is plenty of growth to come, so a target of 1900kg may be appropriate.

But when growth is slowing, target average cover may be 2300kg DM/ha.