Beet Brochure 2015
Fodder Beet is one of the most valuable feeds for both dairy and beef production. It has a major role to play in Irish farming providing a high energy feed suitable for all animals.

It is important to choose the right variety to suit your site, feeding plan and expected results. The higher the dry matter percentage of beet, the higher the energy intakes achieved and the greater the response from the animals. It can be fed as a straight feed or as part of a mixed forage diet.

The beets contained within are currently being trialled by Seedtech. Research is being carried out on new and upcoming varieties which will be added over time to ensure we have a portfolio of beets that consistently meet the needs of Irish farmers.

Beet Portfolio

Sugar Beet: Energarci
High Dry Matter Fodder Beet: Blizzard & Magnum
Medium Dry Matter Fodder Beet: Blaze
Low Dry Matter Fodder Beet: Feldherr

Sugar Beet

Energarci is a high energy/sugar beet variety suitable for forage and biogas production. It also is Rhizomania tolerant.

| DM %  | 17.7% |
| DM Yield | 20.5 tn/ha |
| Fresh Root Yield | 116 tn/ha |

Usage

Where high energy, high dry matter tonnes are required

Data Source: Danish Farmers Union trials 2010-11, 3 trials pr. year
**Blizzard** is the highest dry matter fodder beet in its category whilst also having a very high fresh weight yield.

- DM %: 22.7%
- DM Yield: 18.4 tn/ha
- Fresh Root Yield: 81.34 tn/ha
- *Dirt Tare %: 16.6%
- Usage: Where the highest dry matter beet and highest intakes are required

*2012 data only
Data source: Limagrain UK trials 1998-2012 (2 year data)

**Magnum** is a high dry matter fodder beet and has good fresh weight yields.

- DM %: 20.3%
- DM Yield: 18.4 tn/ha
- Fresh Root Yield: 90.69 tn/ha
- *Dirt Tare %: 16.7%
- Usage: Where high fresh weight and dry matter are required

*2012 data only
Data source: Limagrain UK trials 1998-2012 (2 year data)
Medium Dry Matter Fodder Beet

**Blaze** is a medium dry matter variety which enables the beet to be fed whole or chopped.

| DM %     | 18.3 % |
| DM Yield | 17.5 tn/ha |
| Fresh Root Yield | 96.3 tn/ha |
| *Dirt Tare % | 12.4% |

**Usage**

Where high fresh weight yield and option of whole or chopped is required

*2012 data only

Data source: Limagrain UK trials 1998-2012 (2 year data)

Low Dry Matter Fodder Beet

**Feldherr** is a low dry matter variety used for grazing in situ.

| DM %     | 15.5 % |
| DM Yield | 16.1 tn/ha |
| Fresh Root Yield | 105.65 tn/ha |
| *Dirt Tare % | 12.9% |

**Usage**

Where a grazing beet is required

*2012 data only

Data source: Limagrain UK trials 1998-2012 (2 year data)

...it is a cost effective feed and reduces the need for silage.
BLIZZARD - Billy Shaw, Co. Offaly
Suckler farmer Billy Shaw from Mossfield, Clareen, Birr, Co. Offaly
is no stranger to fodder beet and has been growing the crop for
over 40 years. His preferred variety is Blizzard due to its reliability
and high dry matter yield year on year. Billy feeds Blizzard to his
suckler cows and Belgian Blue calves. Commenting on Blizzard,
Billy says ‘I am very happy with Blizzard fodder beet, it is a cost
effective feed and reduces the need for silage’.

Billy Shaw is a customer of:

BLAZE - Tom Kirwan, Co. Waterford
Farmer and contractor Tom Kirwan, Carrigeen, Kill, Co. Waterford
grows approximately 48 acres of fodder beet every year. Tom
has vast knowledge and experience growing beet over the years
and is confident in his choice of Blaze. Tom explains ‘Blaze has
a big clean root and is a high yielding, consistent variety’. He
finishes cattle with 1/3 of the crop, along with maize and sells the
remaining 2/3 of his fodder beet. Tom concludes, ‘when growing
beet for sale, I look for consistency and quality - that’s why I grow
Blaze’.

Tom Kirwan is a customer of:
Agri Merchant, Jim Foskin, Co. Waterford.
# Relative Energies, Yields and Costs of Forages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forages</th>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Cost/ac</th>
<th>Cost/tn DM</th>
<th>Cost UFL/kg DM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UFL /kg DM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forages</td>
<td>UFL</td>
<td>DM tns/ac</td>
<td>FW tns/ac</td>
<td>UFL yield/ac</td>
<td>UFL yield/ac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize - Open</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>4,250</td>
<td>€507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize - Covered</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>5,780</td>
<td>€628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Grass (Grazed + Silage)</em></td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5,229</td>
<td>€510†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grazed Grass</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5,040</td>
<td>€300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Silage (70DMD)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>€450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Silage (65DMD)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>€450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholecrop</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>€360</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fodder Beet</strong></td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6,048</td>
<td>€627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3,090</td>
<td>€260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Assumption is 18 tonnes of silage and 9 tonnes of grazing at 25% and 20% dry matter respectively.
† Grass inputs/ac are: €25/yr reseeding; €175 fert + spreading silage; €60 fert grazing; €250 silage cutting.