

Mobile Cattle Feed Troughs

Objective

To support supplementary feeding of concentrate feed on remote grazing parcels where supplementary feeding of livestock can have numerous benefits for the grazing management of habitats.

Background

To meet the nutritional requirements of livestock where grazing is required to maintain high quality habitats or for fire resilience purposes, supplementary feeding can be a necessary activity. The use of concentrate feed equipment provides an incentive to move away from outdoor supplementary feeding of forage. The feeding of silage and hay bales in ring feeders can be highly damaging to habitats and water courses. The use of concentrate feed can be a beneficial alternative as it helps provide the adequate nutrients to livestock which allows them to digest rougher vegetation present in many annex habitats.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on Burren Aran CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is only available on Winterage scorecards.
- Feed troughs must not be located/used within 30m of a river, stream or floodplain, and must not be located/used within 50m of a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.
- Feed troughs should not be placed on or within close proximity of a monument or result in new or additional tracking of a vehicle or livestock near or on a monument or archaeological feature. Ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that archaeological monuments are not impacted upon.

Requirements

1. All mobile feed troughs must be purchased new, be galvanised heavy-duty steel, and a minimum length of 2.4m single.
2. Each feed trough applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. Feed troughs can be stored in the farmyard when not in use.
4. All receipts for troughs must be retained by the participant.

Additional Guidance

- Feed troughs are mobile and can be stored on scored parcels during the grazing period.

- They may be stored away from scored parcels in the off-season to reduce risk of theft/damage.
- Supplementary concentrate feeding should not be used to facilitate overstocking of habitats beyond their natural carrying capacity.
- Where supplementary feeding is practiced on a Winterage field, existing or old feed sites should be used where appropriate and done in line with the grazing needs of the field.
- Supplementary feeding on a Winterage should not result in overgrazing of the sward, or a prolonged grazing period that extends into the summer flowering months.

Picture 7: Example of Mobile Cattle Feed Troughs



Source: ACRES Burren Aran