

# Newsletter MAY 2025

**JGRENNAN**  
& SONS



## Beef Finishers - Turn €30 into €200 +

Feed Quality	Low	Average	*High
Starting Liveweight (Kgs)	550	550	550
Expected Feeding period (days)	100	100	100
Average Feeding level /day over the period	7.5 kgs	7.5kgs	7.5kgs
Extra cost per tonne of Feed	Base Price	Plus €20 / tonne	Plus €40 / tonne
Extra Feed Cost per head over the feeding period	0	€15	€30
Average Daily Liveweight Gain expected	0.8 kgs	1.0 kgs	1.2 kgs
Expected Kill out (%)	53%	54%	55%
Extra Carcass Gained per head	0	17.1 kgs	34.6 kgs
Factory Base Price (€'s per kg carcass)	€7.00	€7.00	€7.00
<b>Value of the Extra Carcass</b>	€0.00	<b>€120.00</b>	<b>€242</b>
<p><b>*The high quality feedstuffs we refer to include fully balanced finishing diets such as Grennan's Super Bull &amp; /or Intensive Bull Nuts , as well as our TMR &amp; Hi Maize Beef Finisher Rations.</b></p>			
<p><i>Figures above are based on performances to be expected from good quality, well managed cattle. Good forage quality and feeding management are essential. The above figures do NOT include extra earnings to be obtained from grading bonuses.</i></p>			



In the table above , we put some figures on the value of choosing wisely when it comes to selecting a finishing feed for beef cattle. Yes you could argue about some of the figures in the table, depending on the type of cattle being fed etc , but there is no getting away from the fact that the value of a kg of beef carcass relative to the cost of a kg of concentrate was never as high , so it never made more sense to feed cattle at grass this summer and

when choosing a feed to finish them , to make sure it is of the highest possible quality.

In fact you could summarise the sums in the table above as follows ;

“At current beef prices and a typical feeding level of 7.5 kgs / head/ day, it only takes an additional 100 grams (0.1kgs) of daily liveweight gain to cover as much as a €50 per tonne price gap between a high quality feedstuff and a lower quality product”.

So, Quality really does Pay.

RATH  
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC  
057 91 35004

CLOGHAN  
090 64 57112

TINNYCROSS  
057 93 25500

MOATE  
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT  
090 64 36358

MOYVORE  
044 93 55593

# MAKING TOP QUALITY GRASS SILAGE: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Making high-quality silage requires careful timing, proper technique, and attention to detail. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you get it right.

**1. Good timing is critical.** The best silage is made from grass that's leafy and rich in sugars, typically just before the crop begins to head out. Every week delayed after heading out can reduce DMD by 3%.

**2. Get Dry Matter right.** Optimal DM for grass silage in the pit is between 28% and 35%. Wetter grass is more prone to poor fermentation. If too dry, it can be hard to compact, leading to air pockets, mould growth and secondary heating at feed out time. Aim for a quick (24hrs max) conditioned wilt, so achieving good airflow through the mowed grass is essential.

**3. Maximise Sugar content.** Ideally you need sugars over 3%, so try to cut the grass in the late afternoon or evening as sugars when be at their highest. We are currently seeing samples testing out at over 5% because of the unusually sunny weather.

**4. Chop the grass to 1–2 cm in length** to aid compaction of the pit, achieve speedy fermentation and to maximise subsequent intakes. However, chopping too short can lead to excessive effluent, so balance is key.

**5. Use a good Lactic Acid producing Silage Additive** - these improve the speed of fermentation thereby producing a much more rapid build-up of acid in the clamp or bag. This greatly reduces the level of feed energy lost through heating & you also get a much more stable silage at feed out time next winter. Our **ABS Silage Additive** will deliver this in spades and also give you reduced true protein losses and a much more palatable silage. Ultimately it will reduce concentrate costs next winter.

**6. Fill the Pit quickly & evenly.** Delays lead to respiration losses and spoilage. Spread each layer evenly before compacting thoroughly. Work in thin layers for best results.

**7. Use High Quality covers.** The range of covers available to you was never as wide. The aim here is to have zero waste and zero rotten / decomposed silage being put in front of stock next winter. The covers used have a massive role to play in this regard, so choose carefully.

Building on the success of our virgin **Green Silage Sheet**, we'd like to introduce our **2 IN 1 Combi Silage Sheet**.





**WHITE VIRGIN SHEET**

**OXYGEN BARRIER LAYER**



**Your High-Value Maize**

**BENEFITS OF 2 IN 1 EPICROP COMBI FILM**

- ✓ 40 micron complete oxygen barrier layer
- ✓ The combi film combines the underlay film with the white silage sheet.
- ✓ Virgin polymers.
- ✓ Both sheets roll out together eliminating one complete labour intensive step during the pit covering process.

What our customers say

Customer Focus



Nicholas Kelly, Co.Kilkenny

Customer experienced

**10-15% WASTE**

USING STANDARD SILAGE SHEET

Customer experienced

close to **0% WASTE**

USING EPICROP COMBI

Customer Saved

**€5-6K**

NO WASTE EQUALS BIG SAVINGS

**€250 ONLY**

to cover a pit valuing... **€40K**

Don't undervalue your high-value maize this winter season. Go Epicrop COMBI!

**EPICROP COMBI FILM SILAGE SHEETS**

DESCRIPTION (a size)
36 x 75 Black/White Combi Sheet 140m
46 x 80 Black/White Combi Sheet 140MU
60 x 80 Black/White Combi Sheet 140MU
60 x 100 Black/White Combi Sheet 140MU

Call Gavin McCarthy on 087 662 2933 or email gavin.mccarthy@zeus.ie

## J Grennan & Sons - Farm Plastics Options 2025

Cover Type	Product Name	Colours	Widths	Lengths	Recommended Usage
<b>Polythene Rolls</b>	Standard Polythene	Black	Multiple sizes		Minimum 2 layers
	Hi Performance (Heavy)	Black	60ft	80, 100 or 120ft	Minimum 1 layer
<b>Combination Covers</b>	Combi 2 in 1	Black / White	60ft	80ft	1 sheet
<b>Cling Film</b>	Clingseal	Transparent	18mts	50mts	1 sheet in direct contact with the forage , underneath normal coverings
<b>Bale Wrap</b>	Silotite	Black, White or Green	Standard	1500 mts	We recommend 6 layers ( 24 wraps) per bale (especially for Haylage and all drier forages). Minimum used should be 4 layers (16 wraps) per bale. 20 to 30 bales per roll
	Silotite Professional	Black	Standard	1800 mts	
	Maxi Stretch	Black	Standard	1500 mts	
	Koro Silage Wrap	Black	Standard	1500 mts	
<b>Bale Netting</b>	Acorn Green Edge	Green	Standard	4200mts	Recommended usage depends on baler type
	Baletite NRF* ( <i>*Net Replacement Film</i> )	Black	Standard	2000 mts	Also called Barrell Wrap. Enables less wrap & much easier disposal / recycling .
<b>Cover Protection Netting</b>	Rhino Light Bird Netting	Green	10 mts	15 mts	Open, light , single use mesh. For use as a bird deterrent on all Clamps & / or Wrapped Bales
	Rhino Light Bird Netting	Green	15 mts	20mts	
	Rhino Heavy Duty Silage Protection Net	Green	10 mts	15mts	Protects Plastic - Hard wearing / multi use , very tight mesh. Use directly on top of Polythene Cover
	Rhino Heavy Duty Silage Protection Net	Green	15 mts	20mts	
Sand / Gravel Bags	Silo Bags	Green	175 mm	1 mt	Place end to end on all edges. Creates a fantastic air seal.



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARTIN GARVEY

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Martin Garvey, who left us on the 6th of May 2025 after a short illness.

Martin joined Grennans on 9th July 2012, and it was clear from the outset that he was someone special. In his role as Sales Manager, he brought great energy, deep thoughtfulness, and a genuine care for his customers and colleagues. Over the years, Martin played a key role in helping our business grow and improve — always in his own humble, dedicated way. Martin brought out the best in people and he built a strong, close-knit team around him, sharing not just a strong work ethic but a real sense of pride and enjoyment in their work and in each other.

Martin brought so much to our lives in Grennans. He was a mentor, a guiding light, and a true friend to everyone who knew him. He had that rare ability to lift people's spirits with just a smile — always upbeat, always positive, and always ready to truly listen. His gentle words of wisdom will be missed and never forgotten.

Martin's passion and enthusiasm for farming and all farming people ran deep. He was very widely known and highly respected within both the Irish and UK agribusiness industries. This was easy to see whenever he attended any of the many Agricultural Shows and Livestock marts he loved to visit, both here and in the UK.

Outside of work, Martin was a devoted family man. He leaves behind a loving family who meant everything to him, and to whom we extend our deepest sympathies at this incredibly difficult time.

We will miss Martin dearly — not only as a colleague but as the wonderful, warm-hearted person he was. The Grennan's team has lost a pillar, but his deep sense of empathy, wisdom and kindness will remain with us always.

Our prayer is that he may be as well-loved in Heaven as he was on Earth.

Rest in Peace Martin.

## GEM GARDEN CENTRE CLOSING DOWN SALE ON NOW

We are sad to announce the closing of the Garden Centre at our Cloghan branch (GEM). All other departments in Cloghan remain open for business as usual.

This was not a decision we arrived at lightly, but over the last few months it became clear to us that it would take serious investment and resources on our part, to build the gardening business back up to the level it was at during Paddy & Geraldine's time. So we decided all our efforts and resources were best directed at building the Agricultural and Building supplies businesses in the branch. Our plan is to continuously improve the facilities and services on offer in Cloghan, so that in time it becomes second to none in terms of value for money and service.

We very much appreciate the tremendous loyalty & business we have received from the local community since taking over the business and we look forward to your continued support. A special and heartfelt thank you to Veronica and Amy for all their dedication and hard work in the Garden Centre. We truly appreciate everything you've done.

To mark the closing, we're holding a Garden Centre CLOSING DOWN SALE. It's on NOW, so pop in to grab plants, pots, and garden goodies while stocks last. Thank you.

