



USER GUIDE SIMPLE FEED BUDGET (SFB)



INTRODUCTION

The Simple Feed Budget tool aims to help you make decisions that will optimise both animal and pasture production within your operation.

With a couple of clicks on your computer keyboard, you can see how specific feed and stock decisions you make now will impact on your operation in the weeks to come. It's not a crystal ball, but it's close.

The Simple Feed Budget software is not a shiny new tool, but that is part of its beauty. It really is simple. Let's get started.

GETTING THE TOOL

(Please note—this software only works on Windows computers)

1) REQUESTING THE TOOL

Email <u>resources@beeflambnz.com</u> and request the "Simple Feed Budget tool". You can either have it posted to you on a memory stick OR we can email you a link to the file.

2) INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE

This step is very easy. Depending on how you received the file – from memory stick or Dropbox – follow these instructions:

	INSTALLING FROM A MEMORY STICK		INSTALLING FROM THE DROPBOX LINK
1. 2. 3. 4.	Go you the "Windows" icon - bottom left of your screen Click on "Computer" Under the heading "Devices with Removable storage", you'll see "Removable Disk" - double click on that icon Double click on "simplefeedbudget.msi" and follow the install instructions	1. 2.	 Click on the link emailed to you If you already have Dropbox, skip through to step 4 If you don't already have a Dropbox account, you'll need to create one. Dropbox is a file sharing tool. It is easy (and free) to set up an account: Click on 'Sign up for free'
		3.	Fill in the personal details, then select 'Create an account'
		4.	Download the .msi file
		5.	The application will pop up in a small window. Follow the instructions to download

Set up a shortcut on your desktop

- Once the software is downloaded, right click on the unopened programme and select 'add shortcut' to add to your desktop
- Open application and get started

USING THE SOFTWARE

 Now you have the tool on your computer, double click on the shortcut icon on your desktop.



This will bring up the Intro page.

Simple Feed Budget (1.5)

FEED BUDGETING TOOL

Introduction

The feed budgeting tool aims to assist farmers in on farm decision making to maximise both animal and plant production. Undertaking this feed budget allows the user to look forward and select options that optimise animal performance and productivity.

The tool is designed to be quick and easy and accesses the latest data on animal feed requirements for New Zealand conditions.

The Feed Budgeting Tool enables:

- Minimal wastage of feed by balancing feed demand and pasture supply
- Prediction of feed surpluses and deficits so the current system can be adjusted accordingly.
- Calculation of supplement requirements can be determined in advance and therefore purchased at the lowest possible price
- The farmer to ensure stock are fed sufficiently to reach production targets



When you're ready, click on "Begin".

2.



Beyond the intro page, the entire tool has only four pages:

- 1. Feed Supply table part 1
- 2. Feed Supply table part 2
- 3. Feed Demand
- 4. Summary the answers

FEED SUPPLY

1. First up is "Feed Supply". The page can look a little daunting at first. Hang in there. When you are getting started, we suggest you initially concentrate on the yellow fields only – those within the "Pasture" box.

Tip: You don't have to use the tool across your whole farm. For a start, you may want to concentrate on your easier, more productive country.

🌾 Simple Feed Budget	and the second second	
Feed Supply		
Duration of feed budget (days)	Crop 1 Area (ha)	
Pasture cover at start of period (kgDM)	Crop 1 Yield (kgDM/ha)	
ME of pasture at start of period	Crop 1 expected utilisation %	
Pasture grazing area (ha)	Crop 1 ME	
Pasture growth rate (kgDM/ha/d)	Total DM supply from crop 1	0
Utilisation %	Total MJME from crop 1	0
ME of pasture from growth		
Total DM supply from pasture	Crop 2 Area (ha)	
	Crop 2 Yield (kgDM/ha)	
Nitrogen	Crop 2 expected utilisation %	·
Area (ha)	Crop 2 ME	
Rate (kgN/ha)		
Response (kgDM/kgN)	Total DM supply from crop 2	0
Total DM supply from N 0	Total MJME from crop 2	0
Total DM from pasture and N (kg)	0 Total DM supply from crop (kg)	
Total MJME from pasture and N	0 Total MJME supplied from crop	
DM = Dru matter		
kgDM/ha = kilograms of dry matter per hactare		
ME = metabolisable energy		
Previous Next 🗃	Required input 📔 Optional input 📘 Lookup	

2.) Let's plug in some figures.

Duration of feed budget (days): 28

This means the final summary page will tell us the feed situation in 28 days' time.

Pasture cover at start of period (kgDM): 2200

Let's assume it's early winter, you are in a summer-dry area and grass is a bit lean. You're going to concentrate this initial budget on the area of your farm used for finishing. This pasture cover figure is an average across that area, as at today.

Me.	A	100	- 10 Miles - 1	
1	Simi	ple	Feed	Budget
e	Course of			Dudget

Feed Supply	
Pasture	
Duration of feed budget (days)	
Pasture cover at start of period (kgDM)	
ME of pasture at start of period	
Pasture grazing area (ha)	
Pasture growth rate (kgDM/ha/d)	
Utilisation %	
ME of pasture from growth	
Total DM supply from pasture	0

ME of pasture at start of period: 9

Metabolisable Energy allows us to place a value on the quality of the feed. Is it ryegrass/clover that's rank and gone to seed (ME = approx. 9)? Or is it green and lush (ME = approx. 11)? Let's assume it's 9.

Tip: Some approximate MEs to get you started.

Green pasture	=
Clover = 12	
Leaf = 11	

Dead pasture ME = 7 Grass = 9-11 Stem = 10

Pasture grazing area (ha): 40

We are going to concentrate on the easy country for this exercise. Let's plug in 40ha.

Pasture growth rate (kgDM/ha/da): 10

11

The area is not irrigated. See "Tip" below for pasture growth rates for your district.

Tip: Tucked in the back pages of "A Guide to Feed Planning For Sheep Farmers" are a couple of tables that show monthly pasture growth rates across 16 New Zealand sites, including irrigated and dryland options, where relevant.

See Appendix 6 (pages 52-54).

www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/guidefeed-planning-sheep-farmers

Utilisation %: 75

Utilisation refers to how much of the feed on offer is actually consumed by livestock. Some feed is always left behind – trampled, soiled or simply not used. To be conservative, let's use 75% – i.e. ³/₄ of the feed on offer will be eaten.

ME of pasture from growth: 11.5

New pasture growth is higher quality than old growth. Our feed supply part of the budget needs to reflect this. A figure of 11.5 will work well.

🌾 Simple Feed Budget		
Feed Supply		
Duration of feed budget (days)	28	
Pasture cover at start of period (kgDM)	2200	
ME of pasture at start of period	9	
Pasture grazing area (ha)	40	
Pasture growth rate (kgDM/ha/d)	10	
Utilisation %	75	
ME of pasture from growth	11.5	
Total DM supply from pasture	74400	

That gives us our Total DM supply from pasture – in this case 74,400.

You can carry on and fill in figures for Nitrogen and Crops, if you wish, but for the sake of simplicity, we'll carry on with the bare bones info.

Baled hay/baleage available Wgt per bale (kgDM) Number fed Utilisation % ME of hay	_	⊂ Other Weight (kgDM) Utilisation %	
Total DM supply from hay	0	ME of other Total DM supply from other	0
Total MJME supplied from hay	0	Total MJME supplied from other	0
Stack/pit silage available kg DM Utilisation % ME of silage Total DM supply from silage Total MJME supplied from silage	0	Total feed available (kgDM) Total feed per ha (kgDM) I otal MJME available Total feed per ha (MJME) Average MJME	0 1335 1 10125 0

Click on the 'Next' button (bottom left of the box). You will then see a second page for Feed Supply.

Again, you can fill in figures for baled hay/baleage and stack/pit silage. For this example, we'll push on. When you're ready, click on the 'Next' button.

FEED DEMAND

Now it's time to look at "Feed Demand".

eed Demand	Sheep & b	eef C D	airy	
heep Name of mob	Number in mob	MJME/hd/d	DM intake/hd	Total DM intake
		2	1.11	0
		2	0.00	0
- 1		2	0.00	0
		2	0.00	0
		2	0.00	0
		?	0.00	0
	, Total DM	demand from she) ep (kgDM)	0
eef				
Name of mob	Number in mob	MJME/hd/d	DM intake/hd	Total DM intake
		?	3.78	0
2		?	7.33	0
1		?	0.00	0
		?	0.00	0
;		?	0.00	0
	Total DM	demand from catt	le (kgDM)	0
ther	N		DM Scholar Jud	Tabl DM State
Name or mod		MJME/hd/d	DM Intake/hd	Total DM Intake
			0.00	0
				0
	i otal DM	demand from othe	er stock (kgDM)	U
Provinue Nout	Tota	l feed demand (k	gDM)	0
	Tota	l feed demand pe	er ha	544

- country (that we have entered into the Feed Supply table) to feed our replacement and finishing stock.
 Let's pop in some stock figures, based on the
 - Let's pop in some stock figures, based on the following classes of stock, current weights and desired growth rates:

300 Replacement ewe hoggets (unmated)

- Current liveweight (approximate is fine, to get started): 40kg
- Desired growth rate: 150g/day

200 Replacement two-tooths (mated 1 April)

- Current liveweight: 60kg
- Desired growth rate: 50g/day

40 R1 heifer replacements

- Current liveweight: 170kg
- Desired growth rate: 0.7kg/day

- Desired growth rate: 1kg/day
- 3. How do you calculate the MJME/hd/d figure to go in the green boxes? While the Simple Feed Budget programme includes tables to calculate MJME/hd/d figures (these can be accessed by clicking on the "?" to the right of each green box), the easiest way to source MJME/hd/d figures is to visit www.feedsmart.co.nz.

Tip: Download the **Feedsmart User Guide** at <u>www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/</u> <u>feedsmart-user-guide.</u> Spend 5 minutes – if that long – and, for the rest of your days, you'll have livestock feed intakes at your fingertips. It's a joy to use.

4.) The completed table will look like this:

e	ed Demand	Sheep & b	eef O D	airy	
he	ep Name of mob	Number in mob	MJME/hd/d	DM intake/hd	Total DM intake
1	Replacement ewe hoggets	300	15 ?	1.50	12600
2	Replacement two-tooth ewes	200	14 ?	1.40	7840
3			?	0.00	0
4			?	0.00	0
5			?	0.00	0
6			?	0.00	0
		Total DM	demand from she	⊿ ep (kgDM)	20440
lee	f Name of mob	Number in mob	MIME /bd/d	DM intake/bd	Total DM intake
•	P1 hoifer replacements		EE 2	1 5.50	6160
ו ס	P2 beef steers	40	106 2	10.60	11872
2		140	2	0.00	0
1			2	0.00	0
+ 5			2	0.00	0
1		Total DM	demand from catt	le (kgDM)	18032
)th	er	and an an an			
	Name of mob	Number in mob	MJME/hd/d	DM intake/hd	Total DM intake
1				0.00	0
2				0.00	0
		Total DM	demand from othe	er stock (kgDM)	0
		Tota	al feed demand (k	gDM)	38472
	revious <u>N</u> ext	Tota	al feed demand pe	er ha	962

When you are happy, click the "Next" button.

SUMMARY

Now for the moment of truth ... will you have enough feed supply to meet your feed demand?

In this case, no you do not. The End cover figure of 898kgDM shows a shortfall.

Depending on the time of year, your region and the classes of stock you are grazing, your End cover figure should be somewhere in the 1000-3000kgDM range.

Tip: For lambing in spring, an End cover figure in the 1200-1800kgDM/ha range is recommended.

Sumn	nary	
	Start cover (kgDM)	2200
	Feed supply (kgDM/ha)	1860
	Feed demand (kgDM/ha)	962
	End cover (kgDM)	898

Don't be disheartened. This is the whole point of feed budgeting: to identify the scale of your feed shortage or feed excess and pro-actively make changes accordingly.

What now?

Now it's time to start "pulling some levers". You generally have three options:

- A. Buy in supplements
- B. Get rid of some stock
- C. Apply nitrogen (spring or autumn)

- 1.) So let's have a play. Click the "Previous" button and take another look at Feed Demand.
- 2. Let's quit half of our R2 steers and see what impact that has on End cover. Simply change the "40" to "20" in the steer "Number in mob" box, then click on "Next" to return to the Summary page.



3.) Our End cover figure is now 1047kgDM - so better, but still a shortfall.

Simple Feed Budget				
Summary				
Start	cover (kgDM)	2200		
Feed	supply (kgDM/ha)	1860		
Feed	demand (kgDM/ha)	813		
End	cover (kgDM)	1047		
Previous	Next	8 8 8		

What else can we do?

4.) Click the "Previous" button three times, until you are back on the first Feed Supply page.

5.) Let's consider an autumn application of nitrogen, at say 30kg/ha across all 40ha of our easy country.

Tip: As a general guide, assume a response rate of 10kgDM/kgN.

Area (ha) Rate (kgN/ha) Response (kgDM/kgN)	40 30 10	
Total DM supply from N	9000	

6.) Click "Next" to go to the second page of Feed Supply.

Let's also consider buying in 100 round bales of good quality hay. Realistically, some will be wasted, so we'll say 85% utilisation. The ME of good quality hay is about 8.

7.

8.)

Feed Supply continued

Baled hay/baleage available		
Wgt per bale (kgDM)	200	
Number fed	100	
Utilisation %	85	
ME of hay	8	
Total DM supply from hay	17000	
Total MJME supplied from hay	136000	

Click "Next" a couple of times until you are back on the Summary page. Now you'll see the equation is looking much healthier, with an End cover of 1697kgDM – still a little light for early winter (depending on your farm and the season), but getting closer to a comfortable position.

immary			
Start cover	(kgDM)	2200	
Feed supp	ly (kgDM/ha)	2510	
Feed dema	and (kgDM/ha)	813	
End cover	r (kgDM)	1697	

CONCLUSION

Taking the time to plug some of your own operation's figures into the Simple Feed Budget tool will give you a level of confidence to either proceed with your current approach, or a timely heads up that you need to "pull some levers".

If you want more information or support around feed budgeting, please contact your local B+LNZ Extension Manager on 0800 233 352.



