

Mobile Feed Storage Bins

Objective

To encourage the use of mobile feed storage bins as a place to store concentrate feed on remote grazing parcels where supplementary feeding of livestock can have numerous benefits for the grazing management of habitats.

Secondary benefit is minimised feed availability to rodents in farmyards and thus lowering the need for chemical rodent control in and around farmyards which can have knock-on effects for wildlife.

Background

The use of concentrate feed can be a beneficial practice as it helps provide the adequate nutrients to livestock which allows them to digest rougher vegetation present in many priority habitats. The use of concentrate feed equipment provides an incentive for the farmer to move away from outdoor silage or hay feeding. The feeding of silage and hay bales in ring feeders can be highly damaging to habitats and water courses.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard. **This action may not be appropriate on Peatland sites.**
- Feed bins 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 bins must be purchased new.
2. Each feed bin applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. The minimum size specification for a mobile feed bin is 1 cubic metre.
4. Feed bins must be made of strong, durable PVC plastic or galvanised heavy-duty steel and fully weatherproof/ rodentproof.
5. Feed bins are mobile and can be stored on scored fields during the grazing period. They may be stored away from scored fields when not in use.

Picture 8: Example of a Mobile Feed Storage Bin



Source: ACRES Burren Aran