

Dairy and Arable Farming Cooperation



Northern Ireland

Example of successful cooperation between dairy farmers and arable farmers producing forage maize silage for dairy cow feeding

The Arable Farmer



- Grows forage maize on contract for 6 local dairy farmers
- Medium term contract period – 5 years
- Responsible for crop husbandry
- Opportunity to specialise in forage maize production
- Crop price agreed in advance – adjusted for growing costs
- Slurry nutrients for crop growth provided by the dairy farmers
- Arable farmer receives harvesting assistance from the dairy farmers

The Dairy Farmer

- Security of forage supply
- Professionally grown crop on suitable land
- Opportunity to concentrate on dairy cow husbandry
- Outlet for surplus slurry
- Improved milk production from forage
- Reduced feed costs
- Reduced farm nitrogen surplus

