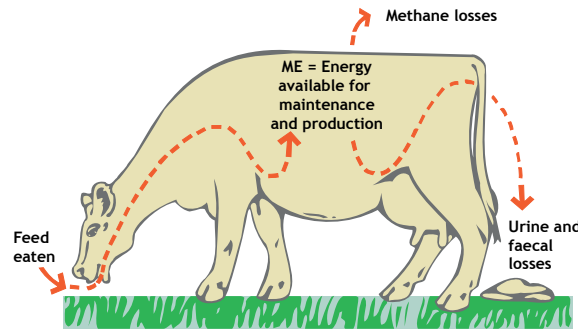


# Pasture feed value

## Summary

- Pasture feed value is measured as metabolisable energy (ME) or digestibility. ME is the more useful unit for many applications.

## Metabolisable energy (ME)



ME is the energy in a feed available to the animal after allowing for faecal, urine and methane losses. It is measured in megajoules per kilogram of dry matter of the feed (MJ/kg DM).

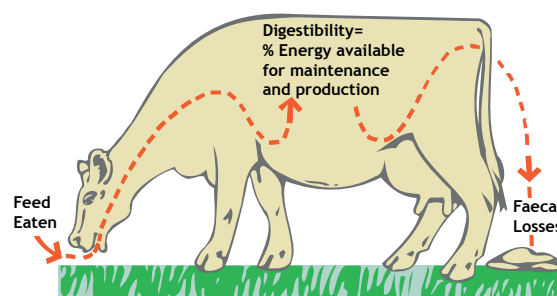
ME is the energy available to the animal for maintenance, growth and production.

## Typical ME in MJ/kg DM (these vary widely)

Pasture		Ryegrass plant	
Leafy spring	11.5-12.5	Green leaf	12-13
Leafy summer	10.5-11.5	Dead leaf	7-8
Stalky dry summer	8-9	Green stem in spring	11
Leafy winter	11	Mature stem in spring	8
Silage		Hay	
Pasture good	11+	Pasture good	10
Pasture average	9-10	Pasture average	8.5
Pasture poor	8	Pasture poor	7.5
Maize (early dent)	10.3	Straw	6.5

## Dry matter digestibility

Digestibility is the percentage of energy in a feed available to the animal after faecal losses.



Typical DM digestibility values	
Leafy spring pasture	80-85%
Leafy summer pasture	75-80%
Stalky summer pasture	60-65%

## Relating ME and digestibility

Digestibility and ME can be approximately compared as follows:

Dry matter digestibility (%)	60	70	80
Metabolisable energy (MJ/kg DM)	8.8	10.6	12.4