

# WALLING CONTRACTING



**GROUND CULTIVATION • ROUND BALING • SILAGE  
BEET HARVESTING • FARM DRAINAGE & DEVELOPMENT**

Advertising Feature

## Kyros Fodder Beet

- Ideal for grazing & can be lifted
- High yields
- Quality seed with high germination

## Magnum Fodder Beet

- Designed especially for lifting and feeding
- High yields
- Quality seed with high germination

A world of seed innovation, right here.

For more information phone Garth Cleland 0292 010 075



## UDC Finance is proud to support Walling Contracting Southland Ltd

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## Low cost and extremely high energy feed

Beet has been harvested and fed to livestock in sheds for many years in Europe. Fodder Beet is a high energy feed ideally suited for wintering barns and feed pad situations.

With this in mind Walling Contracting Southland Ltd's Ben Walling and Sarah Flintoft set about to introduce a self-propelled beet harvester and a beet de-stoner/washer to their fleet of agricultural equipment, with a view to providing Southland farmers with the benefits of a very low cost and extremely high energy feed, perfectly suited for Southland conditions.

Imported from the Netherlands, the Agrifac Big Six Harvester specialises in the lifting of beets for the purpose of storing and feeding directly to cows, whether in wintering barns or on feed pads.

The six-wheel-drive harvester is capable of harvesting from April to September with wet conditions no problem due to the machines low ground pressure, even when carrying a full hopper of beet.

A cross beet washer de-stoner has also been purchased to complete the service.

Walling Contracting believe there are a number of key

**"This is an ideal feed for Southern farmers which is cheap to grow, high ME and reliable." – Garth Cleland of DLF Seeds.**

points farmers should be aware of when growing and harvesting fodder beet to get the best results; following correct advice will ensure optimal results and benefits reaped.

Paddocks should be chosen with good fertility, drainage and no chemical residue from applications to previous crops. Soil should be tested and if needed enough lime applied to have the PH at a minimum of 6.2 with optimum being 6.5 or higher. Beet like a high PH.

Choosing the right beet variety for harvesting is very important. Brigadier is not a suitable harvest variety, however Kyros, Blaze, etc are acceptable but Magnum or SF LIFTA seem to be the ideal fodder beets for lifting. The best harvesting beet variety is the high dry matter 22 - 25 per cent sugar beets which are now available in New Zealand, but these are unsuitable for grazing. These sugar beets should have an ME of around 15.

Spraying out the paddocks properly is important. Make sure that a high enough dose of Round Up is applied to kill off any couch or stubborn weeds of that nature.

Working closely with a qualified agronomist and well equipped spray contractors will ensure good yields and is crucial in a successful crop.

Cultivation of the paddocks needs to be done the same as if potatoes or carrots were to be planted. Prepare a deep/fine seed bed so that the bulbs can develop in the soil without restriction. Planting needs to be accurate and straight, with evenly spaced 500mm rows preferable. Walling Contracting's Agrifac harvester will pick up rows as narrow as 450mm but this is not ideal.

If all the above steps have been done correctly, then harvesting and washing is simple and straight forward with less machinery required than what it takes to harvest silage and the big advantage being that harvesting beet is not weather dependant.

A concrete pad is preferred to store the beet on. The beet will keep for 4 to 6 months or longer in some cases after harvesting, depending on the dry matter of the beet planted as beet with higher dry matter tend to bruise less when harvested and are more frost tolerant. Ben and Sarah say feed analysis carried out on crops harvested locally this year

have returned with a ME of 14.5 and all clients that planted the crop last season have on average doubled the amount they previously planted due to the cow's high lift in production and continued weight gains even after calving having been fed the fodder beet in combination with top quality silage.

Jim Cooper, dairy farmer of Winton grew 18 hectares of the beet variety "Blaze" last season, of which the last has just been lifted at the end of September. He has been feeding the beet in combination with silage on his feed pad



throughout the winter and has noticed a considerable improvement in the condition of his cows since calving and comments that they are producing more kilos per cow now than they have ever done in the peak season of November/December.

"Fodder beet is rocket fuel for cows," Jim says. Seed Force Southern South Island Territory Manager Liam Donnelly says for wintering shed feeding, fodder beet is the most concentrated ME feed.

"Feeding beet is one of the highest energy feeds available to farmers," Liam says. "Getting good advice and following proven agronomic practices are crucial when growing beet, especially so for mechanical harvesting."

After reintroducing fodder beet into the New Zealand market, Seed Force quickly realised its potential here and began investigating the potential for feeding harvested beet, particularly in wintering barn and shed systems.

"Seed Force offers growers a wide range of beets for harvesting, including SF Blaze, SF LIFTA and the only true sugar beet on the New Zealand market; SF SUGA.

Garth Cleland of DLF Seeds says for farmers to make sure they get accurate germination rates from their seed suppliers to ensure it is planted at the right population.

"This is an ideal feed for Southern farmers which is cheap to grow, high ME and reliable.

"We had a lot of inquiry especially since Walling Contracting has set up the operation to handle the crop here in Southland," says Garth

Basically if all steps are done right then fodder beet is the perfect high energy, low cost feed for Southland conditions. Ben and Sarah say Walling Contracting Southland offer alongside the beet harvesting and washing equipment; a top quality silage and baleage service as well as ground cultivation and diggers with the best machines and an experienced team to ensure guaranteed workmanship.

"We are only interested in providing farmers with top quality feed solutions," they say.

To find out more go to  
[www.wallingcontracting.co.nz](http://www.wallingcontracting.co.nz)  
or phone 03 235 2233

## HAZETT

### AGRICULTURAL SPRAYING CONTRACTORS

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