

## Feed storage containers

### Manage cattle feed and water

- Restrict badger access to feed stores, troughs and mineral licks

For more information see Five Actions on the TB Hub website: <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/biosecurity/protect-your-herd-from-tb/>



Fig.1: Feed storage bin

### How does this measure work?

Cattle feed stored on farms in bulk-bags or sacks that are open and not secured in feed stores are vulnerable to being exploited by wildlife. Whether the feed is protein pellets, cake or concentrates, grains or supplementary feeds and minerals, open bags left on the farm overnight can attract badgers and other wildlife. Secure feed stores are preferable for large amounts of delivered feed, but open bags are often kept in or near cattle housing for convenience. In these circumstances it is advisable to use secure containers with lids to prevent badgers getting into bags of cattle feed.

### How has this measure been tested?

Tested by APHA during a 2-year Defra funded project (SE3119) which found that feed bins with secure, closable lids were 100% effective in excluding badgers from cattle feed. Preventing free access to bulk cattle feed also reduced overall badger visits to other farm buildings on farms with these measures.

Product examples	Approximate Guide Price (£*)
Bulk: Feed bag bin, 1 internal compartment, capacity 1000 Kgs (Dimensions L x 1340 mm x D 1260 mm x H 1060 mm)	£730
Bulk: Bulk bin container, 1 or 2 internal compartments, capacity 2000 Kgs (Dimensions L x 2640 mm x D 1260 mm x H 1060 mm)	£890
Small bags/Sacks of feed: Capacity - 1060 Litres (30 x 20kgs bags of nuts/mix, L 70 cm x D 70 cm x H 89 cm)	£274 - £310
* Prices listed exclude VAT and cost of fitting (as of January 2017)	

## Examples of biosecurity measures: Feed storage containers

### Case study (Before):

On this farm bulk-bags of cattle cake pellets were present in an open sided barn for ease of transferring feed into troughs in the adjacent cattle shed (Fig. 2). Wildlife, including badgers, was recorded on camera investigating and climbing into the feed bags. Badgers can be attracted to feed stored on farms, both as a potential food source and to forage for other invertebrate prey items.



Fig. 2: Bulk-bags of cattle feed

### Case study (After):

A bespoke feed bin (Fig. 3) was trialled during an APHA study, although other commercial feed bin options are available. The bespoke feed bin consisted of a container with a hatch for front-loading and a lid that was also half-hinged to allow access to the feed without fully opening the container. This provided easy access storage for open bags of feed and prevented wildlife from accessing the feed at night.



Fig. 3: Bespoke Feed bin with bulk-bag

### Measure recommendation

Containers for bulk bags and sacks of cattle feed:

- Suitable size for bags of ordered feed (e.g. bulk-bags of feed = L 1340 mm x D 1260mm x H 1060 mm).
- Secure lid, either hinged or specifically fitted, preferably with a latch so the container can be closed at night.
- Constructed of rigid smooth material that prevents badgers from climbing the sides.
- Robust for regular use and suitable for loading method, e.g. forklift compatible.