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## Marden Court Farm

Owned by Paul Dawes, Marden Court Farm is a 285 acre mixed farming enterprise in Herefordshire. The cropping of which is winter cereals, short-term leys and permanent pasture.

Paul Dawes and Farm Manager Paul Davies have developed the farm since it was first purchased some 12 years ago and have steadily built up a substantial beef enterprise which now finishes 500 head of prime beef cattle for a private restaurant contract. 140 Limousin / Belgian Blues cross suckler cows provide the home-produced beef stock and good beef-type store cattle are bought in throughout the year.

Stock bulls are sourced from the pedigree Limousin herd at Dinmore Manor Farm with the aim of producing carcasses which grade at U and above.



The buildings were designed to reduce labour and to maximise ease of management as well as to give the stock the best possible environment in which to thrive. All the sheds are light and airy and have an external coral



with wood-chip to create a natural, healthy living space for the cattle to enjoy. "The corals give the cattle

the chance to stroll outside as much as they wish to, this does seem to make them a lot more content and leads to cleaner yards inside" explains Paul.

All the fattening bulls are fed on maize silage, adlib cereals, yeast based minerals and QLF Steakmaker, a liquid feed specially formulated for finishing cattle.

The cattle have delivered some outstanding growth rates since the introduction of QLF Steakmaker, the main benefit of which is huge cost savings compared to other bought-in proteins. "We have found a product that does a superb job of improving the ration and I don't need to look anywhere else for my protein", says Mr Davies.

Bulls are usually sold at between 12 to 13 months old at weights between 650 to 700 Kg. The heifers are stored in the first winter and then brought in to finish on a ration of grass silage, rolled barley, minerals and QLF Steakmaker. These animals are usually between 18 and 22 months old and weigh 600 to 650Kg.

Paul Dawes has been more than pleased with the results this year in spite of the fact that the grass and maize silages were below the usual nutritional standard.

**He is presently feeding;**  
**20Kg of Maize silage**  
**5Kg of Barley**  
**1 Kg Straw**  
**5 Kg of Fodder beet**  
**1.5Kg of Steakmaker**  
**Minerals**

"Barley has not been the best this year so the extra energy from the liquid feed helped to balance the ration"