

# *New seeding service from Don Valley*

Farmers looking to re-seed or overseed grass can now hire a machine to do the job from Don Valley Ltd of Ardmurdo, Inverurie.

Don Valley have acquired a set of Opico grass harrows with an inbuilt seeder unit - one of the most modern and efficient seeders on the market - which is available for hire to farmers sourcing grass seed from the company.

"The high capital cost of a seeder is difficult to justify for most farms and it is difficult to get a contractor when they are busy sowing cereals," said Don Valley's Andrew Allan.

"Farmers can just come along with their own tractor by prior arrangement to pick up the seeder for a day and get the job done."

The Opico harrow has revolutionised grass harrowing in recent years and is ideal for stimulating grass or

renovating old pastures. The air control in the seeder unit meters and broadcasts the seed accurately to ensure even and consistent distribution.

"This ensures a good spread, even on a windy day, and the settings allow seeding to be reduced to low rates if required," said Mr Allan.

A simple, low-cost operation such as over-seeding into an existing ley will boost yield and prolong the useful life of the sward while a complete re-seed rejuvenates the whole pasture to maximise grass yield. Trials have shown that yields can be increased by over 40% by re-seeding and up to 25% by over-seeding.

With a typical working speed of 4-7mph, the 6m Opico grass harrow is a high capacity machine capable of covering more than 100 acres in a normal working day.



***Duncan and Andrew Allan of Don Valley top-up the seeder on the new Opico grass harrow***