

Some important tips.....

Commonly asked question about making silage.....

• At what stage of maturity should we chop?

• For corn 1/2 milk line

• For sorghum 60—70 % moisture

• At what length we should chop?

3/8" to 3/4"

• At what height we should chop?

 Silage DM yield reduced about 15% as the chopper head is raised from 6 to 18 inches

How I make a quality silage?

- Maturity at harvest
- Moisture
- Chop length
- Packing
- Sealing
- Ensiling

Optimum maturity at harvest

- Alfa Alfa-----mid bud to 10%bloom
- Corn silage-----1/2 to 2/3 milk line

• Sorghum-----60% moisture

• Forage moisture content for quality silage making ?

Ensiling required forage to be in specific moisture range.



Compaction:

• Never work more then 6" at a time.

 Amount of time on silo is as important as pounds of pressure applied / sq. inch.

Compaction:

• Weight dispersal is the key

 Average packing time= 2 mints /ton of fresh fodder

Use of silage inoculants:

- Improves silage fermentation
- Improve animal performance
- Not always successful because of high natural lactic acid bacteria on crop.

Seal the silo:

• To maintain aerobic stability

Plastic layer must be at least

6mm to avoid air penetration

Minimum silage to be removed to avoid spoilage:

• Top un loader silo

1 inch per day

- Horizontal (face off silo) 4 inch per day
- Bottom unloader silo no minimum req.

• Silage is too hot = > 120 f.

- Poor fermentation
- Low moisture
- Air leaks
- Yeast mold growth
- Slow feeding feed out

• Dark color silage

- Excessive heat damage
- Excess oxygen in silo
- Low moisture
- Long chop length

• Moldy silage.

Presence of oxygen in silage
Low moisture
You have ensiled stressed crops full of molds and yeasts
Slow feed out

Rancid milk odor

You have clostridia fermentation
High butyric acid in silage
Caused by high moisture content
Low lactic acid bacteria

Silo gas.....

• If you see it or smell it.....it may be too late

What is silo gas??



Silo gas:

- Bleach in color
- Yellowish brown gas
- Stays close to the silo

How to avoid silo gas?

- Ventilate silo adequately
- Keep door close between silo room and barn
- If you experience throat irritation and cough take fresh air.

• High seepage/run off from silo

You had too high crop moisture
Dull chopper
May have done over packing and damaged Plant cells

Poor feed intake in cows

Clostridia fermentation
High ammonia in silage
Too wet or too dry silage
High molds/toxic weeds/nitrates

Magic recipe:

- Air exclusion
- Harvest at right maturity
- Correct chop length

Magic recipe:

- 10% of particle > 1.5 inch
- Fill silo quickly
- Seal the silo

Magic recipe:

• Remove silage properly

Prevent secondary fermentation