

Getting it Right – making and feeding great silage!

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Pioneer® brand products



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Overview

1. Impact of losses on profitability
2. Practical ways of minimising losses
 - Reducing storage losses
 - Reducing feeding losses



Impact of losses on cost of feed

- Losses always occur – you never get back more than what you put in
- Losses add to the cost of feed or reduce the milk produced off that feed

Losses (%)	0	5	10	20	50
Cost of feed (c/kgDM)	29.0	30.5	32.2	36.3	58.0



Making Great Silage - Compact

- Three C's to making great silage
- Compaction is a function of:
 - Dryness of crop
 - Weight of tractor
 - Chop length and Kernel processing
 - Height of bunker/stack
 - Depth of layering
 - Rate of delivery



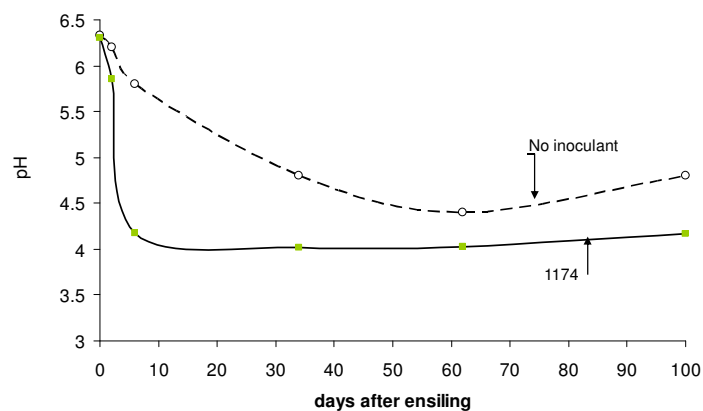
Crop dryness

- Aim to maximise starch content of maize
- Ideal harvest moisture between 32-38% WPDM
- Ideal chop length – dependant on moisture
- Ideal processing – all grains at least quartered
- Dry crops are harder to compact than wet crops BUT contractors can change chop length and KP to get great compaction



Making Great Silage - Inoculate

Rate of ensiling 38%DM grass silage with and without inoculant



Time to ensile – with or without inoculant

Forage	% Drymatter	Days to Ensilage	
		With Inoculant	Without Inoculant
Grass and lucerne	20%	4-7	8-14
	30%	4 - 10	14 - 21
	40%	4 - 10	20+
	50%	Up to 14	Up to 30+
Maize	35%	3-5	more variable



Cover Properly

- High quality cover
- Tires touching
- Dirt/lime/sand round the base



Stack face management

1. Only expose that days feeding
2. Don't smash into the face. Don't fluff it up.
3. Keep the face clean. Use a shovel!!



Feed out management - paddock

- Feed onto long grass before the cows go into the paddock
- OR – use a sacrifice paddock
- Feed along fence lines if possible
- Feed in 8-10 cow piles if center feed out wagon



Feed out management - bins

- Can feed maize up to 2 days in advance if using 11C33
- Feed grass silage in the paddock and maize and PKE in the bins (avoid sorting wastage)
- IF getting maize left over, clean the bins out to prevent spoilage and feed refusal

