



SILAGE OUTLOOK

April 2025

THINK AHEAD FOR TOP QUALITY SILAGE

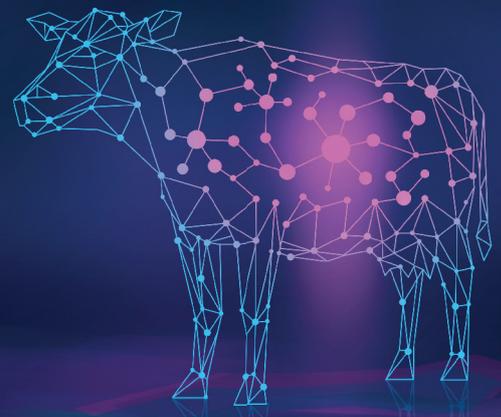
Planning ahead is key to making the most of homegrown forages. As we look ahead to silage season, now is the time to start thinking about management of silage ground to maximise quality for optimal production from forage next winter.

SLURRY AND FERTILISER APPLICATION

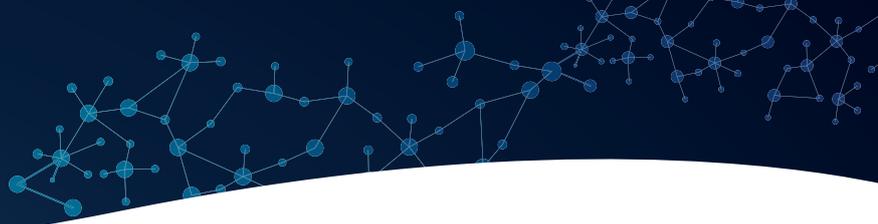
Consider timing and application rates of slurry and fertiliser. It can be tempting to prioritise emptying slurry tanks at the expense of over-application on silage ground. If too much slurry has been applied, the risk of excess nitrogen in silage is increased, which has negative effects on fermentation and palatability. Additionally, if slurry has not washed into the ground properly, there is a risk of bringing slurry back in from the field, causing contamination. It is a good idea to analyse soil to understand exactly the nutrient requirements of your ground. Then, informed decisions can be made regarding appropriate fertiliser applications so optimal levels of nutrients are supplied.

TIMING OF CUTTING

Think about what you want to achieve. While leaving first cuts later in the season increases bulk, it does sacrifice quality. It is better to cut earlier to capture quality and increase supply of energy and available nutrients. Over the last couple of years, first cuts have been stemmier than usual, and on some farms, second cut has been better quality than first cut. Winters have been warmer, and it seems grass continues to grow marginally, so by the beginning of May, the grass can already be quite stemmy. Trident MicroNutri's mobile NIR service provides instant NDF results for fresh grass, which can help you understand grass quality ahead of cutting.



Learn more by calling **+44 (0) 2894 473 478**



PRE-MOWING NITRATE TESTING

It is useful to factor in time for free nitrate testing as part of your plans. Samples of grass can be analysed to determine free nitrate levels, which indicate how well fertiliser has been absorbed and used. Excess free nitrates can have an impact on fermentation and palatability of silage. Typically black, foul-smelling silages are an indicator of grass which has been mowed when high in free nitrates.

PLAN FOR USE OF SILAGE INOCULANTS

At Trident MicroNutri, we have three silage inoculants available, which are applicable to different silage situations. Understanding the challenges of the situation is an important first step, followed by correct application of the most appropriate inoculant.

SiloSolve[®] FC

SiloSolve FC is an oxygen-scavenging inoculant, proven to create an oxygen-free environment for rapid, controlled fermentation. As a result, pits can be opened after just seven days. It inhibits up to 98% of yeasts and moulds, resulting in less waste and improved nutrient availability and palatability. This increases the opportunity to maximise milk from homegrown forage.

Lactococcus lactis
(O.224)



Lactococcus buchneri
(LB1819)

Scavenges oxygen
(creating anaerobic
conditions), which results
in reduced growth of
yeasts and moulds

Produces acetic acid
which kills 98% of yeasts
and 94% of moulds

SiloSolve[®] MC

SiloSolve MC is another option available, which is designed for use on forages which are particularly difficult to ensile, for example low dry matter (under 23%), high nitrogen, low sugar or those with suspected slurry or soil contamination. **SiloSolve MC** has additional benefits in limiting the growth of clostridia bacteria.

Lactococcus lactis
(SR3.54) *patented



Two other lactic
acid bacteria

Reduced undesirable
microbial fermentation,
especially by Clostridia

Direct and control
overall fermentation



SiloSolve® OS

For issues with top-layer spoilage, **SiloSolve OS** is available. This is a powerful silage additive designed to reduce top-layer spoilage through preventing the growth of yeasts and moulds, resulting in improved aerobic stability at feed out.

