

Prairie News

Preparing for Corn Silage

As we all know corn silage can be very digestible, consistent, and palatable with high nutritional value for cows. Below is a checklist of items to think through and execute before corn silage harvest begins.

Harvest at correct maturity.

- Plant moisture should be between 62% and 70% .
- ½ milk line for the grain is preferred.
- Check particle length going into storage.

Consult your nutritionist to determine the optimal chop length of your particular operation.

- Check corn silage with the Penn State Particle Shaker box.
- 3-8% in top screen, 45-75% in second screen, 30-40% on the third and <5% in the bottom pan.
- Most choppers will give you this at a theoretical length cut of ¾ inch.
- Check particle size when switching fields, varieties, and/or moistures.

Check processing.

- Collect a 32oz cup of fresh cut silage.
- Place in a pan of water.
- Agitate the silage to allow forage and grain to separate.
- Skim the fodder from the top of water and drain.
- Look for whole and half kernels.

If there are two or more kernels that are half or whole, the corn silage is not processed well enough.

Size storage appropriately.

- Size the width of a pile so a minimum of 6 inches is removed per day.
- Use previous history to calculate storage capacity.
- Do not over fill the available area.
- Do not exceed a 3-1 slope. Exceeding a 3-1 slop will not allow adequate packing.
- Have a plan so that you can feed out fermented (old) feed while the new crop ferments.

Prepare your pack tractors.

- Have enough packing weight on the tractors to get 18-20# dry matter per cubic foot.
- Take your tractors weight divide by 800; this is the total tons per hour of corn silage you can adequately pack.
- Use duals, they cover more square feet per pass.

Driving the pack tractor is the most important job of harvest.

- Cover every square inch at least once if not twice.
- Do not dump feed over the edge of the pile.
- Use the progressive wedge system.
- Drive slow to have better

control of the blade.

Inoculate with a well-proven inoculant.

- Have the inventory present at the beginning of harvest.
- Make sure the applicator is calibrated correctly and provides instructions.

Cover pile as you go each day.

- Have covers present pre-harvest.
- Use an oxygen barrier plastic layer in addition to conventional 6-mil plastic cover.
- Consider a heavier plastic for the top cover or a double layer of 6-mil plastic.
- Maintain tire to tire contact to minimize air entrapment.
- Seal edges on side of piles and bunker walls.

We only have one chance per year to get the most important forage on the dairy harvested and in storage correctly, so being prepared and executing properly are very important. We must do everything we can to provide forage that helps the cows to perform to their potential.

Akey
Roger Olson
Dairy specialist

Prairie Ag Supply LLC

September 1st, 2011

Burn-Down Day

Getting ready for corn silage!

10am-4Pm

Lunch served



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Biotal Inoculants



With corn silage season rapidly approaching it is important to have your inoculant needs in order, but are all inoculants the same? It seems as though every salesperson that comes into your yard has one. Well, we at Prairie Ag supply are here to reassure you that not all inoculants are the same.

One of the most heavily researched and proven inoculants for corn and corn silage is Lallemand's Biotal L. Buchneri 40788. This particular bacteria is very efficient at producing acetic acid which helps keep forages fresh at feed out. When corn and corn silage is exposed to air, mold spores and yeast organisms become active and can

rapidly cause spoilage to your feed. The production of acetic acid has been shown in research to reduce the rate of mold and yeast growth significantly.

There is one tradeoff to the L. buchneri 40788, and that is you lose the lactic acid producing bacteria that traditional inoculants are known for. The lactic acid producing inoculant helps reduce spoilage by causing the PH to drop faster in freshly harvested forage.

Biotal has developed an inoculant that combines both the lactic acid producing bacteria for the front end fermentation and the L. Buchneri 40788 to aid in bunk life at feed out. The inoculant is called Buchneri 500 and research shows that it works. It brings a total of 500,000 cfu's per gram of forage, which is significantly higher than most of their competitors. Other companies claim to

have buchneri, or a variant of, but L. Buchneri 40788 is a patented, specific strain of bacteria that is only sold by dealers of Biotal, like Prairie Ag Supply. There is no other buchneri on the market with the research behind it like Biotal's.

Choosing which inoculant is right for your operation can vary on several factors. A couple of examples could be, summer feed verses winter feed, or the number of times you feed per day. How much feed do you use off the face of your bunker or bag? If you have any questions about which inoculant would work best for your operation please feel free to contact your Prairie Ag sales representative.

Tom Pfeilsticker
PAS



Employee Profile—Josh Wickum

Our employee for this newsletter is Josh Wickum. Josh has been with Prairie Ag for 7 years. Josh drives one of our semi-trucks. You may have seen him driving hopper truck filled with commodities or auger truck filled with feed.

Josh is Prairie Ag's jokester, always good for a laugh or good story, which plays into Josh's most memorable moment with PAS. Just after he started with us, he had to deliver some feed out to one of our producers, and got specific

instruction to be careful pulling into the yard making sure not to get stuck.

Well, low and behold, Josh pulls into the yard and got stuck...he sunk the truck in so bad that they had to get a tractor to pull him out. Till this day, Josh is still reminded of that incident whenever he delivers feed to that producer.

Josh is originally from Minnesota, but made the move over to Wisconsin where he and his wife, Sara, bought a farm just outside of Menomonie.

Josh has three

children; Hope, Jake, and Jack. He also has one grandchild named Isabella.

When Josh is not driving for Prairie Ag, he is working on his farm. Josh has some beef cattle and several working teams of horses. Josh along with his two sons enter around 20 horse pulls throughout the Midwest. This September Josh will be pulling in the National Horse Pull in Menomonie. We wish him well.

Josh is a great employee and we enjoy having him at P.A.S.



It's getting to be that time of year again. The deer are reaching their full antler potential and they will soon be shedding the velvet that has covered them all summer. The bucks will soon be getting ready for rut and the does will be ready to wean their fawns. That is why it is more important than ever to get Uncle Kurt's deer mineral out in your mineral stations.

As you look at your local deer herd, the deer's antlers may not be as big as you would like them to be or you are having a hard time getting standing pictures of the bucks. That is where Uncle Kurt's Deer Mineral comes into play. It isn't too late in the season to help your deer population reach their full potential.

Before the days get shorter in the fall, find a good shady spot off of a well used deer trail, and dump a pound or two of Uncle Kurt's mineral. Once they start hitting that station you might have to increase the feeding rate. Another key point is a rotten stump this area will stay damp through the summer months and the deer will consume the stump as they eat the mineral.

Keep your mineral stations in a place where the deer will feel safe to come out at all times of the day. You might be surprised at the size of the bucks coming out at high noon to take in some Uncle Kurt's Deer Mineral!

Give it a couple of days, maybe a week, and check your mineral stations. Once the deer have found the mineral, other deer will come in and before you know it a large portion of the local herd is visiting your stations every day. Keep the stations well stocked. The deer will even dig in the dirt surrounding where you have dumped mineral, but a nice fresh bag won't last long once they have found it. Usage will be high earlier on as the antlers are in their early stages of growth, it will taper off some as the summer nears its end.

Place your trail camera close to the station or stations and watch the antlers grow. Keep in mind that the does and fawns coming in to your stations are benefitting from the mineral as well. Fawns need the mineral for good bone development and the does will need the mineral for next year's fawns.

Keeping does in the area is key for the end of October and the November hunts. Hunt where the does are and the bucks won't be too far behind!

Keeping your stations full of mineral will ensure a healthy deer herd and quality hunting. For more information call Prairie Ag Supply or check us out on Uncle Kurt's website www.unclekurts.com.

Hunt safe, hunt hard and get off the beaten path and shoot a big buck. Good luck!

Aaron Wolf



Kurt took this buck during bow season in 2010. It scored 143 Pope Young.



Aaron took this buck gun season in 2010. It grossed scored 145 Pope Young.

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Prairie Ag Supply

Burn-down Day

September 1, 2011

10:00am to 4:00pm

Bring 5-6 cornstalks per sample

Lunch provided