

Make First Crop Silage County Agent Advises

By: M. M. Smith, County Agent

Dairy farmers are urged to consider the practice of making part of their first cutting of hay into grass silage; granting that many producers continue to depend upon corn silage as one of their major quality roughages, it is still good insurance against drought conditions this summer to have some grass silage on hand. Also, when most of our first cutting of grasses and legume are ready to cut the weather conditions are not favorable for good hay making.

If the results from feeding grass silage have not been satisfactory, dairymen are urged to consider the following practices to improve quality and to reduce the seepage problems (1) Return to the practice of wilting the forage crop before putting into the silo; (2) Add a preservative to direct-cut forage; and (3) Do not direct-cut forage when wet with dew or rain.

Many quality silage producers are returning to the practice of wilting the forage for several hours after mowing and before chopping for the silo; this will require from 2 to 4 hours depending upon the weather and the maturity of the crop. The goal is to reduce the moisture content of the crop by wilting from the usual 80% down to 65 to 70%. A simple test to detect this amount of moisture in the field would be to grab a handful of the mowed forage in the field and give it a twist with your two hands; if no free moisture is left on your hands and if the twisted handful slowly uncoils, then it is about right for the 65 to 70% moisture condition.

After some experience, it is quite common that top quality grass silage may be made by using the wilting method without any added preservative. Many experienced producers throughout the country have continued to have success using only the wilting practice.

However, it is suggested that producers trying the wilting system for the first time, that lower amounts of feed preservatives could be added to obtain proper fermentation. High moisture

content of the direct-cut forage has always required the need of extra preservatives; without this extra moisture (wilting) the need for preservatives is reduced if not eliminated.

Ear Corn as Preservative

Since ear corn is one of the cheapest sources of feed, and very common on most farms, it is one of the most popular preservatives; at the rate of 200 pounds per ton it will reduce seepage, aid in preservation, and increase the energy content of grass silage made by the direct-cut method; if some wilting is done, the amount may be reduced; with proper wilting no preservative should be needed.

Other feed additives such as ground barley, oats, rye, wheat, or dried beet pulp or citrus pulp, molasses feeds, soybean hull bran, or plain molasses may be used; the

rate is similar to the ear corn amount. The above amounts are for stands of legumes such as alfalfa, clover, or trefoil; grass-legume mixtures would require about 25 percent less preservative, and grass stands 35 percent less. Liquid molasses should be used at the rate of 60 pounds on legumes and 30 pounds per ton on grass.

Farmers continuing to direct cut will face a seepage problem and face lower quality silage because of excess moisture. With this method chopping should not be done when the crop is wet with dew or rain; this merely makes the problem worse and usually ends up with a silage too high in moisture for top quality. Chemical preservatives such as Sodium Bisulphite at the rate of 6 to 8 pounds per ton are still recommended as an economical preservative. With some wilting on the crop good results have been experienced with reduced amounts of the bisulphite.

Time of Harvesting is one of the biggest factors influencing the quality of both silage and hay crops. Most legume and grass stands should be cut when the legumes are in the bud stage and the grasses when the heads are emerging from the boot of the stem on later cuttings of alfalfa the crops should be permitted to reach 50% bloom. Wheat, barley, and oats made into silage or hay should be cut when the header and the grains in the milk stage. As the crops gets

more mature than mentioned above, the total feed value decreases.

The Forage Testing program throughout Pennsylvania has revealed that too many producers are failing to make top quality grass silage; there are many factors contributing to this problem some of which have been discussed in this article. Local growers are urged to keep these points in mind toward the effort to improve the quality of their grass silage.

B. Risser, 24 0; 37 M&B (Robert Zeigler), 6000 WV 9-3, Daniel K. Good, 18 8, 38 Same, H. W Longacre, Inc, 18 8; 39. M&B (John O Moyer), 6100 WV, 9-3 NO SALE, 15 5 bid; 40 Same, 6400 WV, 9-3, NO SALE, 16 9 BID; 41. M&B (W E. Diefenderfer), 4000 WV, 9, Starr Poultry 18 7; -42 Same, H W Longacre, Inc 18.5, 43 Mark Myer, 1300 WVP, 13-6, W C Mellinger & Son, 22 0

PORK ROASTS

When selecting a pork roast, look for a layer of fairly firm white fat covering the outside, suggests Catherine B Love, Penn State consumer economics extension specialist. Pork fat indicates quality and is largely responsible for the flavor of the meat.

Lancaster Poultry

(From page 3)
30 Robert Long, 430 L-F, 17 Mo, Walter Lehman, 12-3; 31 John B Kurtz (Sam Burkholder), 1000 L-F, 17 Mo, Victor J Koser Co, Inc 15 1, 32 Garden Spot Broilers (Melvin Barge Jr) 3500 IR, 8-6, NO SALE, 18 5 bid, 33. Same, 34 M&B (Elmer D. Leaman, 7000 WV, 9-3, S E. Davis, 18 7; 35 Mark Myer, 2500 WVC, 13-6, Carl B. Risser, 23 4, 36 Same, 700 WVP, 14 2,

CHAIN SAW SERVICE CENTER
New & Used
Snavely's Farm Service
NEW HOLLAND EL 4-2214

Wire Fencing

For all various farm needs low prices and an extra discount for large orders. Free delivery in the Lancaster County area

W.L. Zimmerman & Sons
INTERCOURSE, PA.

Bulk Spreading Service

FERTILIZER and LIMESTONE

DEALERS FOR

- Davco "Granular" Fertilizer
- Webb Super-Gro
Balanced organic fertilizer
- Rock Phosphate
Phosphorus
- Green Sand
Potash

If you need fertilizer — call us—

SMUCKER BROS.

BIRD-IN-HAND, PA.

Leola OL 6-2229

Any Dairy Farmer

that reads this ad and is interested in putting on a few good Wisconsin milk cows to step up your milk production, please drop us a card right away giving your name, location and telephone number and we will contact you right away at your farm.

Look your herd over and check them over closely and cull out your bees to make room for good cows. We have a very good market for your culls and any kind of beef cows that you might want to trade. We are receiving 2 to 5 trailer loads a week from Wisconsin. Delivery can be arranged for most anywhere in Pennsylvania right to your farm. If you would prefer to take a drive over to our cattle farms take the Penna Turnpike which leads on to the N J Turnpike then get off at N J Exit no 5 turn right towards Mount Holly, and stop at first gas station and telephone us and our fieldman will come and lead you over to our cattle farms. Our cattle farms are located on each side of Highway 206, 1 1/2 miles this side of Vincentown, N J or about 6 miles from N J Turnpike Exit no 5. Look for eight silos, 4 silos on each side of highway, also telephone us the night before for an appointment to meet us

I. Greenberg & Son

Route 206
Mount Holly, N J
Telephone:
Mount Holly, N J.
AMherst 7-1101



Costs 40-60%
Less to Feed
Than Milk!

PIONEER VIG-R-CALF Milk Replacer



SAVES MILK... 50 lb. size saves 4 cans milk in 4 weeks.

EASY TO FEED... Just mix with warm water... STAYS MIXED!

INCREASES GROWTH... Calves average up to 2 lbs. per day gain in growth!

CONTROLS SCOURS... Scientific blending of quality ingredients and antibiotics helps you control scours!

SAVES MONEY... Costs 40-60% less to feed than milk!

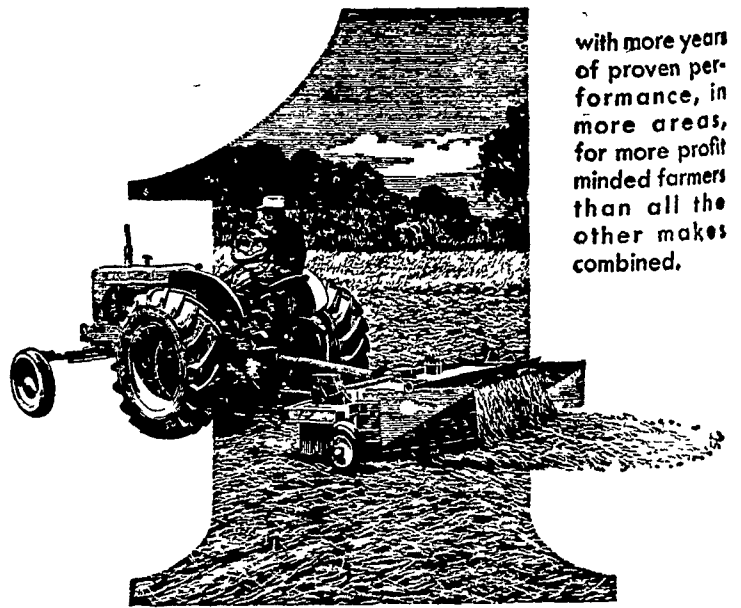
Don't overlook the growth, health and money-saving benefits offered by VIG-R-CALF as a milk replacer for your calves. VIG-R-CALF is simple to prepare, easy to feed and grows calves faster for less. See us today for complete details on the PIONEER VIG-R-CALF Milk Replacer Program

Joseph M. Good & Sons

LEOLA — QUARRYVILLE

Cunningham

THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE HAY CONDITIONER



with more years of proven performance, in more areas, for more profit minded farmers than all the other makes combined.

NOW! YOUR CHOICE OF 3 MODELS FOR 1960

Mann & Grumelli Farm Serv.

QUARRYVILLE, PA.

Phone ST 6-3630

L. H. BRUBAKER

350 Strasburg Pike, LANCASTER LITITZ, R. D. 3

SNAVELY'S FARM SERVICE

NEW HOLLAND

Phone EL 4-2214