Wilting Grass For Silage Improves Quality Of Feed Produced

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Many forage crops are approaching the proper stage of maturity to make the best hay or grass silage, this is the bud to early bloom stage for legumes and the heading stage for all grasses Livestock producers planning to make all or part of their first cuttings of grass silage should make every effort to reduce the moisture content of the forage before cutting it into the silo

In recent years the direct cut method of making grass silage became very popular because it was a fast and simple method of getting the corn into the silo, however, the silage resulting from this high-moisture material was very strong and disappointing to many producers, this caused a trend away from silage as an important livestock feed Many problems developed in the handling and storing of this high-moisture material and nearly all of them can be traced to the fact of too much moisture

We are now recommending that producers make a special effort to lower the moisture content of the crop before putting it into the silo This may be done according to two methods and both of them will result in better quality silage than the direct cut method

(1) Wilt the fresh cut forage down to the 60 to 70% moisture level and making wilted silage . . this means leaving the crop in swath or windrow for several hours before chopping, this loss of 10 to 20% of the moisture will make a big difference in the silage

(2) Make low moisture hay crop silage (haylage), which requires the wilting of the forage crop down to the 50% moisture level before chopping This system was developed in the air-tight silos but experience and research has shown that this forage may be stored in the unright, conventional silo providing it is in good condition and tight

In making the low moisture hay-crop silage there will be reduced nutrient losses during storage little or no seepage, a higher dry-matter intake by animals, less damage to the silo and reduced odors and unsanitary conditions around the buildings

To make haylage in the regular upright silo the following

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Bankers Awards To Six 4-H'ers

Six county young people this week were named to receive a total of $150 in grants and scholarships donated by the County Bankers Association

Two of the $100 scholarships will go to 4-H club members who received the same award last year while a third scholarship in the same amount will go to a new college enrollee

The three grants of $50 each will be applied toward nurse's training by the recipients

Keith Overgaard, the son of Mr and Mrs Walter Overgaard, Lancaster R4 will apply the scholarship to his return to Lehigh University this fall Darvin Boyd son of Mr and Mrs Elmer Boyd, Ephrata R1, will continue his education at the Delaware College of Science and Agriculture at Doylestown Lois Ann Overgaard a sister of Keith will enroll at Albright College in the fall

Barbara Keener daughter of Mr and Mrs Clarence Keener Manheim R3 and Mary Heisey daughter of Mr and Mrs Samuel B Heisey Sheridan are in training at the Lancaster General Hospital while

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