

Poorly preserved silage lowers animal intake

HERSHEY — Many times depressed intakes of ensiled materials or a total mixed ration may be related to poorly preserved silage or haylage

"When inadequate acids are present to preserve the material, it will heat and deteriorate," said Richard

Adams, Extension dairy specialist at Penn State

A speaker at the 20th Anniversary Forage Conference held Monday and Tuesday in Hershey, Adams noted that generally the pH of good corn silage should be in the range of 3.5 to 4.5 while good haylages should run

from 4.5 to 5.0.

Usually these will have an adequate bunk life when removed from the silo reasonably close to feeding, he said. Higher pH material may heat and deteriorate with adverse effects on intake and performance.

"Sometimes problems

occur because material is removed from the silo too far in advance of feeding. Too often farmers fill silage carts or mixing wagons the night before feeding the next morning. Excessive heating may occur," Adams emphasizes

In other cases, too little silage is being removed from large silos, particularly horizontal ones in the summer. Sometimes it is necessary to feed as often as three to five times a day to keep down heating and attain a good intake and performance

The problem on some farms, the dairy specialist pointed out, may be caused by failure to close hatches on bottom-unloading silos. Shelf-life of many silages will not exceed 12 to 24 hours after removal from the silo.

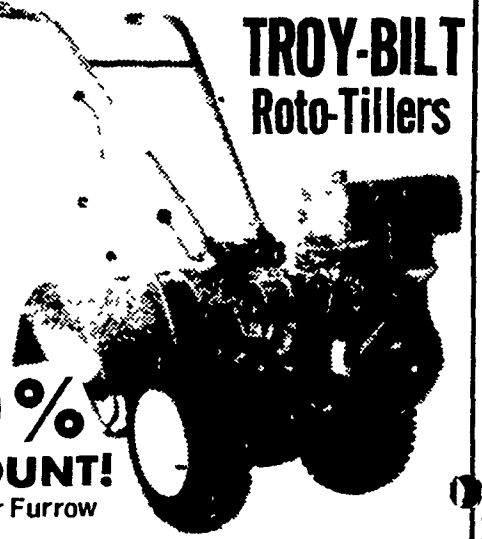
"There is a distinct advantage in dry matter and nutrient conservation inherent in ensiling. This, coupled with the ease of handling and feeding, particularly on farms with one or two operators, are reasons enough to further expand putting up silage, haylage, and ensiled grains," Adams said



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Decorating hints conserve energy, money

LITITZ — A few simple decorating hints can help you conserve energy and money year-round

Members in the national 4-H home environment program, conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service, and supported by the S&H Foundation, Inc., suggest the following guidelines for creating comfortable and carefree living spaces

• Textiles, for example, can be used in the home to help maintain thermal comfort. Many of the principles that apply to fabric selection for garments can also apply to home decorating.

• Select fabrics with nap,

texture or pile for cold weather because these textiles will feel warmer than smooth fabrics. For hot weather, select absorbent fabrics, such as cotton blends, which have smooth surfaces that are cool to the touch. Non-absorbent surfaces, like plastic and leather, will not absorb perspiration and eventually feel wet and sticky.

• Carpeting also plays an important role in conservation at home. Carpets and rugs keep floors warm in winter and cool in summer. For uninsulated floors above an unheated area, carpeting provides good insulation. The insulating ability of a carpet is determined by

thickness and pile density, however, a pad under the carpet can add more insulation

Boys and girls, nine to 19, in the program, apply energy efficient techniques as they relate to housing, furnishings and equipment in the home. They also develop an appreciation of and skills in care and preservation of old and new housing, furnishings and accessories

4-H'ers who excel in the program are eligible for awards, donated by S&H, and arrange by National 4-H Council

THINK

Cheese

FOR THE BALANCED DIET

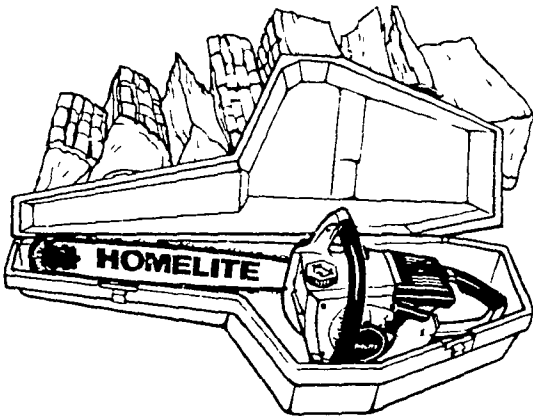
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