

Round bale silage requires management

NEW HOLLAND — Round bale silage can give you the best feed you've ever fed. If something goes wrong, it can also be a bummer.

The Penn State forage test report showing over 24% protein for a late 1983 sample is proof the system can give your cows excellent feed. Things have to go right for those results. A very small leak in the plastic bag can lead to a moldy bale of lower feed value, notes Dick Salisbury, who is product manager for round balers at New Holland.

Apparently, the problem is that bags tend to be limp and loose after the silage is cured. If the bags aren't protected, they may flutter with a bellows effect when the weather turns windy. Then, a small hole can pass oxygen carrying air into the bale. A hole too small to be considered important in a plastic cover over a pit silo can be enough to cause a moldy bale of haylage in a plastic bag. Round bale silage needs better management than chopped forage in a tower silo.

Round bale silage also has advantages over a tower silo, Salisbury adds. The system is instantly expandable and you don't have to make a 20 or 30-year investment as would be the case with a tower silo. And since the forage isn't under tons of pressure from the forage above it as is the case in a tower, you can store round bale silage at higher moisture content without runoff losses. In the case of alfalfa, baling at fairly high (but wilted) moisture content may even yield a superior forage at feeding



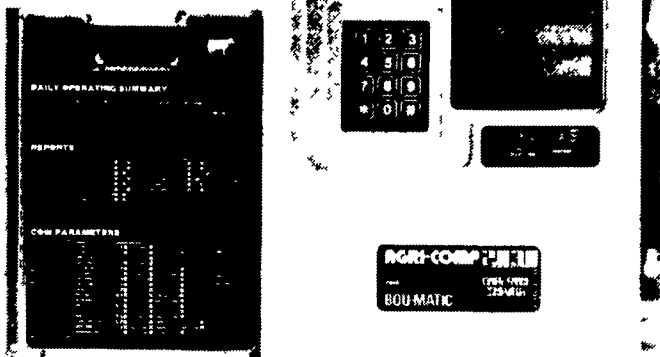
Sample from this round bale silage tested 24.2 percent protein and 72 percent TDN.

time. The natural green color of the alfalfa is more likely to be maintained.

Harvesting is easy. If you have a chain-type baler you usually only need to adjust the baler for the size roll your loader will handle. If

bales are bagged within a few hours of baling, you can expect very good feed because weather damage and leaf loss can be avoided. The critical management item is to avoid air leaks in the plastic bags during storage.

Future Farmers of America



Advanced on-farm dairy computer is available from Bou-Matic Dealers.

Dairy computer improved

MADISON, WI. — A new, advanced on-farm computer for dairy herd management has been announced by Dairy Equipment Company, a division of DEC International, Inc.

The Agricom 2030 can be tied directly to another business computer on the farm and is designed to handle automatic cow identification. In addition, the system features enhanced software to make it easier and faster to enter data for larger herds, and it operates some 10 to 15 times faster than the previous model.

The Agricom 2030 also features a number of circuitry improvements to withstand the harsh farm environment.

The system provides 10 dairy management reports, reducing manual record keeping and providing daily herd and individual cow information on which to base management decisions.

For additional information, contact any Bou-Matic dealer of Dairy Equipment Company, division of DEC International, Inc., P.O. Box 8050, Madison, WI 53708.

CCC loan rate set at 10%

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Commodity and farm storage loans disbursed in February by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 10 percent interest rate according to CCC Executive

Vice President Everett Rank. The 10 percent rate reflects the interest charged by the U.S. Treasury in February and is the same rate in effect the preceding month, Rank said.

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