

Pa. Graded Feeder Cattle Sales Dates Set

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The following dates have been set for the Fall Pennsylvania Graded Leather Feeder Cattle Sales.

These dates have been selected so area producers can plan ahead to market their feeder cattle. Interested buyers should plan on attending these sales to fill their needs.

Cattle will be sold in uniform lots according to grade, weight, sex, and breed, or color. Some sales will not accept cattle with dairy breeding, yearlings, bulls, or cattle with horns. Cattle that have been dehorned should be healed

Castrated males should be healed and guaranteed against stags. Personnel from the Livestock Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Market Development, will grade the cattle for frame size and muscle thickness, using USDA Feeder Cattle grading standards.

• Eighty-four auction sales, Eighty-four (Washington County). Sale date and time: Friday, October 2, 1998 - 7:00 p.m. Cattle received: Friday, October 2, 1998, 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 650 - no cattle with horns, dairy breeding or bulls will be accepted. Contact: Clair Kearns (724) 239-2124, Sale Barn (724) 222-9965

• Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg (Snyder County) Sale date and time: Friday, October 2, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Cattle received: Friday, October 2, 1998, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 300 to 400. Contact: Larry Benfer (717) 837-5638 or Clarence Shirk (717) 656-8793, Sale Barn: (717) 837-2222.

• New Wilmington Livestock Auction, New Wilmington, (Lawrence County). Sale date and time: Friday, October 9, 1998, 7:30 p.m. Cattle received: Friday, October 9, 1998, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 300-500 Contact: Tom Skelton (330) 793-3590, Sale Barn: (724) 946-8621.

• Pa. Livestock Auction, Waynesburg, (Greene County). Sale date and time: Wednesday, October 14, 1998, 10:30 a.m. Cattle received: Tuesday, October 13, 1998, 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 1000- no bulls or yearlings will be graded. Sale Barn: (724) 627-9585.

• Central Pa. Livestock Co-op, Feeder Cow and Yearling Sale, Belleville Livestock Auction, Belleville (Mifflin County). Sale date and time: Friday, October 16, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Cattle received: Friday, October 16, 1998, 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Estimated headage: 300-350 Contact: James Conner (717) 726-3055, Sale Day: (717) 935-2146.

• Indiana Farmer's Livestock Market, Homer City, (Indiana County). Sale date and time: Saturday, October 17, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Cattle received: Saturday, October 17, 1998, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 400. Contact: Becky Lipsi (724) 397-4087, Sale Barn (724) 479-2600.

• Bedford Cattlemen's Assn., Bedford County Fairgrounds, Bedford, (Bedford County). Sale date and time: Saturday, October 24, 1998, 1:00 p.m. Cattle received: Friday, October 23, 1998, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 200. Contact: Dave Miller (814) 623-2321 or Ed Wolfhope (814) 733-4307.

• Westmoreland County Cattlemen's Ass'n., Westmoreland County Fairgrounds, Greensburg (Westmoreland County). Sale date and time: Saturday, October 24, 1998, 6:30 p.m. Cattle received: Saturday, October 24, 1998, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Estimated headage: 200, no cattle with horns, dairy breeding or bulls will be accepted. Contact: Dustin Heeter (724) 837-1402 or Conrad Dovovan (724) 593-6230.

• Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg, (Snyder County). Sale date and time:

LIMIN KUNG JR., Ph.D.

**University of Delaware
NEWARK, Del.** — Microorganisms involved in the ensiling process include beneficial bacteria (homolactic acid bacteria), detrimental bacteria (for example, clostridia) and unwanted yeasts and molds.

In a good silo, air (oxygen) is eliminated by respiration from the plant and packing, thus preventing the growth of detrimental bacteria, yeasts and molds.

A limited amount of heating during the early days of ensiling is good because it is an indication that air is being removed and that bacteria are starting to ferment the silage.

When oxygen is eliminated from the silo, production of acid and a low pH stops bacterial growth. However, low pH and acidity do not stop the growth of yeasts and molds in silage.

Heating for too long of a time is an indication that there was too much air in the silage mass and excessive heat can result in heat-damaged proteins, low energy values, and low dry matter recoveries.

Aerobic Stability
"Aerobic stability" is a term

Friday, November 6, 1998, 7:00 p.m. Cattle received: Friday, November 6, 1998, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Estimated headage: 300 to 400. Contact: Larry Benfer (717) 837-5638 or Clarence Shirk (717) 656-8793, Sale Barn (717) 837-2222.

Additional information about these sales is available by calling Richard C. McDonald, Jr., Livestock and Fair Division, Bureau of Market Development, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, at (717) 787-5319

that nutritionists have used to define the length of time silage remains cool and does not spoil.

We do not understand all the factors that affect the aerobic stability of silages.

When fermentation is completed, and silage is exposed to air during feedout, heating in the silo and feed bunk is usually caused by yeasts (and to a lesser extent molds and some bacteria).

Silages with large amounts of yeasts spoil rapidly; those with low levels of yeasts remain stable.

Silages that have undergone clostridial fermentation and have high concentration of butyric acid are, ironically, very stable when exposed to air. However, clostridial silage is undesirable because loss of DM and nutrients are extremely large when this type of fermentation occurs.

Silages that have a strong vinegar smell (acetic acid) are also usually very stable because acetic acid is very toxic to yeasts.

In general, the problem of spoiling silage is worse in high moisture corn, corn silage and cereal silages than in alfalfa silage.

If heat is detected in silage months after silo filling, this is usually an indication of spoilage and reduced nutritive value. Depending on the degree of spoilage, cows may eat less feed and/or produce less milk.

Because air is the spark that lights the fire for growth of yeast, minimizing air in silage is an important goal. Harvesting forages at optimum moisture levels (not too dry), correct particle size (not too long or short), filling and sealing quickly and feeding out adequate amounts of silage from the silo each day will help to minimize silage's exposure to air.

Clean and efficient removal of

silage from the face of bunkers and bag silos will also help to minimize spoilage.

**Preventing Spoiling
With Additives**

There are many products available to producers that claim to improve silage quality.

Bacterial inoculants, based on homofermentative lactic acid bacteria, should be added to silages to improve fermentation and increase dry matter and energy recovery. However, most bacterial inoculant do little to inhibit growth of yeasts and molds.

Some inoculants contain bacteria that can make propionic acid (*Propionibacteria*). However, in most studies, improvement in aerobic stability has not been better.

In some recent studies, newer bacterial inoculants that produce large amounts of acetic acid have improved aerobic stability. However, these products are not currently approved for use in the U.S. and more research is needed in this area.

Enzymes are commonly found in many silage additives but they do not inhibit yeasts or molds.

There are several types of silage additives that can help to control yeasts and molds. Most of these products contain buffered propionic acid as the primary active ingredient. These preservatives also contain other antifungal compounds such as sorbic acid, benzoic acid, and acetic acid.

Buffered propionic acid-based products are generally non-corrosive and safe to handle. Unbuffered propionic acid is less expensive to use but most advise against its use because it is highly corrosive to equipment and people.

My lab has conducted research

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Improving The Aerobic Stability Of Silages

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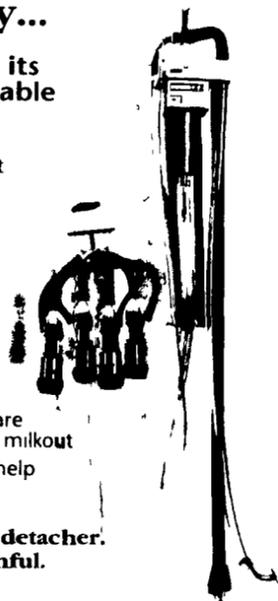
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