

Silage production check list

PREPARATION

- Fields
- Timing of use of fertilizers
- Equipment - state of repair
- Silos - state of repair; appropriate dimensions

CROP AND VARIETY SELECTION

- Suitable to local conditions
- Matches overall objectives

HARVEST TIMING

- Optimum stage of growth
- Optimum plant moisture level

CUTTING AND CHOPPING

- Cutting height
- Optimum TLC
- Processing (corn silage >32% <40% DM)

INOCULANT

- Proven to deliver desired results
- Fermentation enhancement/aerobic stability
- Applicator calibration/maintenance

FILLING AND PACKING

- Quick fill
- Maximum 6" layers
- Progressive wedge (bunkers and piles)
- Run:rise 4:1 (drive over piles)
- Packing weight adequate for forage delivery rate
- Packing time adequate
- Packing density at least 15 lb DM/ft³
- Seal silo quickly and effectively

FEEDOUT

- Rate of feedout adequate to prevent heating
- Discard all spoiled/moldy silage
- Balance ration properly based on silage quality