



The importance of achieving high quality grass silage.

Pioneer®

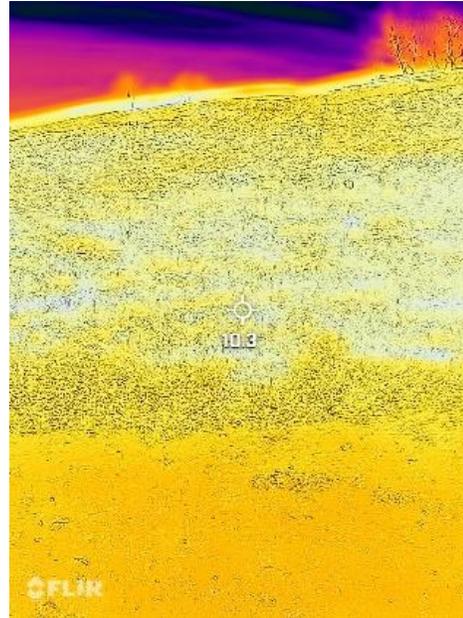
Feb 2022





- The current price and availability of fertiliser means that we are likely to see a reduction in nutrient applications this year.
- Yield especially is likely to be affected by the reduction in nitrogen applied and we could find that forage is scarcer this season as a result.
- Farmers are likely to make better use of slurry to compensate for the lower fertiliser applications. Some fields will receive higher amounts and more slurry utilised between cuts.
- Increased slurry usage on grass cut for silage is likely to present greater challenges to the ensiling process.
- Nitrogen uptake will be variable and dependent on weather. This may lead to higher levels of nitrogen and potash being ensiled. This could easily affect the efficiency of the fermentation process and stimulate the growth of unwanted spoilage organisms.
- Dry matter losses resulting from poor fermentation and the presence of spoilage organisms, such as yeasts and moulds will result in silage potentially losing its most valuable nutrients-carbohydrate, proteins and pectins.
- For farmers facing potential yield losses, minimising avoidable dry matter losses to achieve high quality silage will be of greater importance than ever.
- Dry matter losses can be reduced through good clamp management and the use of an effective silage additive.
- Dry matter losses can average about 20% during the whole ensiling process. So, for every 20 acres of grass cut, average ensiling losses can equate to approximately only 15 acres being ultimately fed. The use of a pioneer brand silage additive can help to reduce those losses by around 5%. Using an additive to protect the silage from dry matter losses can give around an acre back.
- Pioneer brand silage additives work to achieve a faster fermentation process and keep the clamp cooler, minimizing dry matter losses and protecting the quality of the silage.

2022 key messages



Pioneer brand 11GFT and 11CFT treated grass and maize silage clamp.

The above pictures show how a high standard of clamp management and the use of an appropriate silage inoculant will lead to a uniformly low temperature across the clampface and will minimise dry matter losses.

(Photos courtesy of Williams Farming Partnership, Ark Farm, Tiffield).