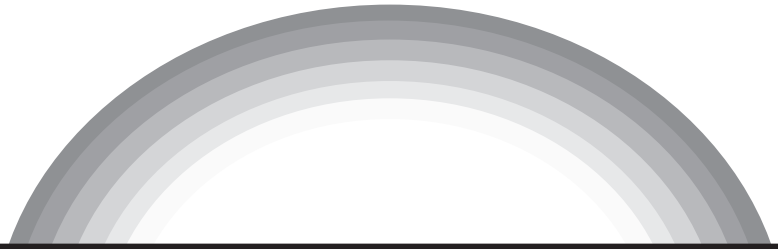


# Disaster Recovery



## Livestock

# Making quality silage

- Most failures are due to harvesting silage too dry (difficult to pack and allows exposure to oxygen) or too wet (allows undesirable fermentation and seepage). Recommended moisture levels are as follows:

Storage structure	Percent moisture
Stack or pile	65-72
Trench or bunker	60-70
Upright concrete	60-68
Oxygen limiting	45-55

- Chopping silage at 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch cut allows more effective packing in horizontal silos. Daily knife sharpening and shear adjustment are very important.
- Proper moisture levels aid firmness of chop and packing. Be sure the packing tractor operates at least the same number of hours as the chopper. If making a stack or pile, build it as high as possible, 8 feet or higher is ideal, to minimize surface area.

- A goal is to minimize exposure to oxygen so fill quickly and continuously if possible.
- Cover with plastic to exclude air for horizontal silos. Anchor plastic with tires, dirt, etc. for a good seal.
- Consider building a trench, using silage bags, or renting a neighbor's silo if a storage structure is not available on the farm. The following are estimates of storage losses on various structures.

Structure	Anticipated storage loss
Stack or pile (uncovered)	20-40%
Stack or pile (covered)	15-35%
Trench or bunker (uncovered)	12-25%
Trench or bunker (covered)	8-20%
Upright concrete	8-15%
Oxygen limiting	3-11%

These losses impact feed costs as shown below:

Silage value including storage (\$/t)	Percent storage loss							
	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
	<b>Silage cost after storage losses (\$/t)</b>							
\$10	10.53	11.11	11.76	12.50	13.33	14.29	15.38	16.67
\$15	15.79	16.67	17.65	18.75	20.00	21.43	23.08	25.00
\$20	21.05	22.22	23.53	25.00	26.67	28.57	30.77	33.33
\$25	26.32	27.78	29.41	31.25	33.33	35.71	38.46	41.67
\$30	31.58	33.33	35.29	37.50	40.00	42.86	46.15	50.00
\$35	36.84	38.89	41.18	43.75	46.67	50.00	53.85	58.33

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**. . . and justice for all**

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