

Challenging 2016 Corn Silage

by Russ Kline, P.A.S. Agri-Basics, Inc Nutritionist

This year has been a challenging growing season depending upon your geographical location with weather conditions. The drought has affected many areas with very low yields and stressed corn this past summer. In Central PA, there was a substantial amount of corn silage harvested with little to no grain. Not only will there be a variation in dry matters, but also available starch content and digestibility within this years corn silage. Testing for dry matter and adjusting for it will have to be done often in order to maintain a consistent ration regardless of the kind of structure it is stored in. Another

major component of why we feed corn silage is the starch level. With the wide variety of corn hybrids in conjunction with the weather, it will contribute majorly to the variation of starch levels within the corn silage. Another concern that cannot be neglected is molds and mycotoxins. Typically drought stressed corn is very susceptible to the growth of mycotoxins. Issues such as these can affect not only production, but breeding and health of the cows. So in short, Always "READ" the cow. Her body condition, production, components and behavior tell us much more than we as humans sometimes realize.



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"...meeting today's
challenges, pursuing
tomorrow's goals."



The

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DAIRY EDITION

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Keeping Ahead of Winter Dysentery

by Lisa R. Tager, Ph.D., Dairy Nutritional Technical Specialist

The winter chill is approaching here in the Northeast U.S. and it is time for producers to keep an eye out for winter dysentery in their herds. From now until Spring, we'll all be doing our best to make sure the herds we work with don't fall prey to an outbreak of this menacing disease. Winter dysentery is characterized by a sudden onset of diarrhea that can be green to black in color and may contain fresh blood. Many cows don't drop in DMI when they are about to break with dysentery, so we often don't know there is a problem until the symptoms of diarrhea, dehydration, and sometimes respiratory issues, present themselves.

While winter dysentery is often not fatal, it does cause high morbidity in herds with anywhere between 5-30% loss in milk production. With therapeutic treatments, cows recover in one or two weeks. However, by then, the losses in milk are substantial and most cows will not recover back to normal yields during the current lactation. This makes winter dysentery one of the most financially troubling diseases that a dairyman can be faced with in the winter. The good news is that with a little diligence and awareness, the producer can play a big role in keeping winter dysentery from affecting their herd this season.

Researchers are still not 100% sure what causes winter dysentery, but much of the recent research points to Coronavirus as the main culprit. Unfortunately, herds struggling with Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV), Coccidiosis, Salmonella, and even E. coli can also display symptoms very similar to those caused by viral dysentery, particularly in the cold and stressful winter months. Often, these pathogens weaken the animal's immune system, opening them up to an outbreak of Coronavirus. Therefore, producers should consider any of these

pathogens as a possible threat to production in herds and take necessary steps to avoid an outbreak

A little bit of good management can go a long way in preventing dysentery this winter. There is an experimental Coronavirus vaccine, but it is not proven 100% effective yet, so your best bet will be to practice good hygiene and management through the cold months. Keeping feed and water troughs, stalls, your parlor, and your employees clean and disinfected is the best way to avoid an outbreak of dysentery. Fecal contamination of feed and water is the number one cause of outbreaks on a farm. Also, it is important that any animal coming to your facility be quarantined and certified tested.

Unfortunately, sometimes even the best management cannot keep winter dysentery at bay. Therefore, it is also a good idea to consider nutritional options for avoiding or

beta-glucans provided by Hilyses not only help lower the effects of any mycotoxin challenges present in the gut, but also help to stimulate the immune system in order to fight off winter dysentery before it starts.

Hilyses can also work as a treatment for winter dysentery at a double dosage, particularly if the symptoms are being caused by Salmonella or E. coli. Even if your winter dysentery is viral, the full dosage of yeast culture for rumen health, immune stimulation and gut microbe effects of Hilyses will help your herd get through the outbreak and on the mend quickly. Most importantly, because of Hilyses' unique manufacturing process, we have verified that it has a higher amount of MOS, mannose, and beta-glucans than most other products on the market, so you can be sure that it will provide you with the best preventative or treatment for winter dysentery in your herd. Hilyses

is also certified organic (certificates available upon request), making it a great option for producers who need a natural solution for winter dysentery symptoms.

Remember,

good management and hygiene on your farm will be the best way to avoid winter dysentery this season. However, even the best producers sometimes cannot keep winter dysentery away when temperatures get cold and animals become stressed. Adding "nutritional insurance" to your diet, such as Hilyses hydrolyzed yeast, will keep your cows protected and producing through the winter months.



Agri-Basics, Inc. Dairy Meeting 2016

Please join use on December 8th, 2016 for the annual Agri-Baiscs, Inc. Dairy Producer’s Meeting. This year’s event will be held at Yoder’s Restaurant on Route 23 in New Holland, PA. We will start off the day with Dr. Charlie Gardner and hearing how we can “Stay Positive in Time of Tight Margins.” This presentation will be focused around how forages count in both good and bad times, but can make or break you during periods of financial challenge. It is important to make crops a priority no

matter what the market looks like ahead. If you practice this, you will be in a much better seat when low markets with tight margins arrive. Have you heard of the Veterinary Feed Directive? Are you wondering what it is and how it will affect you? More importantly, why is this happening? Our next speaker, Dr. Andrew Holloway from Elanco will speak on “What Does V.F.D. Mean to Me?” This topic will discuss the upcoming Veterinary Feed Directive and

why is it being put into effect. He will also discuss what this means to the producer and the nutritionist and how protocols will be handled. Both speaker’s will leave plenty of time for questions on both topics. The meeting will begin with registration at 8:30 AM. Following with a welcome at 9:30 AM and the beginning of presentations at 9:45 AM. Please see your Agri-Basics, Inc. nutritionist or call into the Agri-Basics, Inc. office at 717-361-9266 for a flyer and registration slip. We ask that all RSVPs be returned by December 1st, 2016. We hope you all have a great fall and we’ll see you at the winter producer meeting!

Dairy Meeting Topics

- *Stay Positive in Time of Tight Margins.*
- *What Does V.F.D. Mean to Me?*

Fall Calf Workshop- November 15th, 2016 *by Angela Breneman, Calf Specialist*

Join us for the Agri-Basics, Inc. Fall Calf Workshop! 2017 is quickly approaching and so is the new Veterinary Feed Directive. Learn how to raise a better calf from the beginning so we can help reduce the use of feed grade antibiotics. Topics will include a discussion and presentation of why the Veterinary Feed Directive was put into effect, a hands-on activity on how cleanliness and proper management with the cow can lead to a healthier calf in the maternity pen and a hands-on pulling demonstration. A refresher course in calf pulling will also dive into taking a step back and looking at our pulling protocol. Are we too pushy when it comes to pulling? And how does that effect the calf? All of these topics will highlight management techniques and protocols on how we can try to prevent disease before it strikes. This event will be held on November 15th, 2016 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM and proudly held at an Agri-Basics, Inc. customer farm, of Ezra and Janice Horst, Quarryville, PA. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Angela Breneman at 484-252-1607 or email abcalfspecialist@gmail.com with your name and number attending. We’ll see you at the workshop!



Call us today to register!

Please join us on
November 15th, 2016
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Lunch Provided

Topics include:

- ~ "What's The Beef?" Antibiotics Use and Residues
- ~ Start with Mom: Clean Calf = A Healthy Calf- Hands-on maternity pen demonstration
- ~ Are We Too Pushy When it Comes to Pulling?- A hands-on refresher course on calf pulling

This workshop will proudly be held at
an Agri-Basics, Inc. customer farm:
Ezra & Janice Horst
1358 Robert Fulton Hwy
Quarryville, PA 17566

RSVP: Angela Breneman 484-252-1607 or
abcalfspecialist@gmail.com



What is NDFD? *by Wilson Eberly, Agri-Basics, Inc. Nutritionist*

Many of us have seen over the past year or two a new measurement for fiber digestibility on our forage samples. NDFD is NDF digestibility with an hourly rate added to it. What is it? What does it measure? What does it mean for my ration? NDFD is an incremented measurement of NDF fiber digested in the rumen. Efficiency and rate of digestion are both measured in this calculation. The portion of your forage sample that is NDF is immersed in buffered rumen fluid to try to replicate the rumen environment. Then, the digestibility is measured at 30 hours, 120 hours and again at 240 hours. This gives us 3 pools of digestion rates.

That which is in less than 30 hours is rapidly turned into energy mostly in the form of rumen microbial protein. The slower pool that falls between 30 and 120 hours is only slightly digested. That which is in the 240 hour pool is basically not digested at all. So, in using these three points of measurement we can determine the rate of digestion, and just as importantly, the rate of passage through the cow. The slow pool and the undigested portion are the indicators of gut fill and that is what limits total dry matter intake. So, the more NDF we have that falls in the greater than 30 hour digestibility measurement the less our cows can physi- cally eat.

Corn silage NDFD rates can vary quite a bit on genetic differences between varieties. When choosing corn silage hybrids it is important to look closely at NDFD. Alfalfa genetics do not vary as much as do corn si- lage hybrids, so that makes timing and stage of maturity far more critical. Seed companies are slowly beginning to look at this in alfalfa genetics. Small grain silages and grasses also have a huge variation on NDFD mostly relat- ing to maturity at harvest.

Fall Associates Meeting: What We Can Bring to You, the Customer

by Greyson Smith, Management Assistant

With the new year quickly approaching the Agri-Basics, Inc. associates sat down to hear about changes for the year to come along with old technologies that hold poten- tial for farms. Dr. Bobbi Bailey, the Beef Specialist from MarSyt, Inc. was the first to present to the group. Throughout this summer and fall she has been attending large confer- ences across the country and was asked to discuss what some of the important top- ics were at ADSA and the Cornell Nutrition Conference. The biggest topics that she pre- sented on were the gut microbiome, “omics” technologies, fatty acids, and amino acids. A key point was how fatty acids are getting more attention now and current studies have shown dramatic increases in pregnancy to service percentage with the help of feeding dietary fat. The meeting then changed to some beef studies that Dr. Bailey has done with both Hilyses and Pro-fit AA. Two Pro-

fit AA studies showed, in beef cattle there can be more weight gained with even less feed consumption. The amino acids in the Pro-Fit AA allow for more nutrients to be ab- sorbed from less feed. The Hilyses trial con- sisted of two groups of 126 calves. At the end of the trial there was a 0.33 greater ADG for the calves fed Hilyses over the ones that were not. At the con- clusion of the beef talks, Jim Hogue brought up different points about natural fed beef and the prod- ucts we have to

scours like a calf would normally get from the high volume of milk. Most of Dr. Ceglowski’s work has been with group housing but, there are systems available that make an accelerated program possible for individu- ally house calves. After the end of Dr. Bob’s presentation, the business portion of the meeting started and Veterinary Feed Directive information was discussed. The associates talked about how they will be dealing with medicated feed after the first of the year. Wrapping up, Tom Good reminded everyone about the dairy meeting coming up and who the speakers will be. When leaving, the associates were able to talk with each other about the meeting and other parts of their job along with taking literature that was provided to them to hand out to customers.

offer for these customers.

The Milk Specialties Global speaker was next and this was Dr. Bob Ceglowski, a vet from New York State, who has a lot of experience in acidified milk and acidified milk replacer sys- tems for calves. Most of his work has shown that calves are able to drink more on an accelerated milk program while not showing

