

Haylage Tips



Objective: High-quality feed as source of energy, protein and fiber

Starting Time

Pure grass: start mowing when nearby alfalfa is 15" tall

Mixed alfalfa/grass: start mowing when alfalfa is 24" tall

Pure alfalfa: start mowing at 30" tall

Keep Dirt Out

Keep Ash less than 10%

Disc mowers pick up dirt, cutting height of >2"

Watch fields with manure application

Keep Dry Matter >35%

Don't go too early!

Don't get too dry!

Merging stops the dry down process

↑ Ash (Manure) + ↑ Water = Clostridia + Butyric

Chop length

Length and clean-ness of cut

Inoculant to Save Haylage Quality

Lactate to decrease pH and save sugar

↑ Lactate + Moderate Water = ↓ Clostridia + ↓ Butyric

Pack and Pack and Pack

Oxygen prolongs fermentation and ↓ Sugar

<6" layers for packing

Drier haylage needs more packing

End-of-day packing only packs the last layer

Pack tractor driver determines chopping and hauling

Cover ASAP

↑ Oxygen = ↓ Sugar + ↑ Yeast + ↓ Nutrient Availability