

# Good Practices for Silage Production

## Crop Selection

Choose a crop that suits your region's climate, ensuring it has the potential for high yields. Determine the type, number, and size of silos needed, as this will help calculate the crop quantity required for planting.

## Inoculant Usage

Using the right inoculant can minimize nutrient loss and significantly increase your profits. Selecting the proper inoculant can help cut losses and preserve the characteristics of healthy feed.

## Storage

Proper packing of silage reduces oxygen levels inside, limiting the growth of aerobic microorganisms. Each layer should be 15 to 30 centimeters thick, and the silo should be closed promptly to minimize oxygen exposure. Avoid contaminating tractor tires with soil, as soil-borne spores and clostridia can degrade the silage and harm your herd's health.

## Packing Silage

For suitable packing, allow at least 20 percent more time for packing than the harvesting time. The total weight of the tractors used in packing should be about 40 percent of the total weight of forage transported per hour. A proper seal will prevent oxygen from damaging the silage. To achieve this, use films with proven oxygen barrier technology, as ordinary plastic tarps are permeable and cause high dry matter losses

due to oxidation. The proliferation of yeast and molds on the top layer may affect around 35 centimeters of the silo surface and lead to metabolic disorders in your herd if not removed. Films made of special polymers offer 100 times better oxygen barrier properties than commonly used plastic films.