Silage making for successful dairy farming

Silage is a formulated feed that becomes ready after 2-3 weeks of sealing resulting from storage of high moisture crop such as maize under anaerobic conditions in a structure called silo.

However the pit silo should be 2.5 metre deep, 5 metre wide and 12 metre long for increased storage of forage material. Also the top of silo pit should be higher than surrounding after filling and compressing. Quality silage should be green, brown or golden colour while black shows poor silage.

Steps

First, uniformly lay green fodder in layers and chop them in 5-10 cm pieces and make each layer of green fodder 30-60 cm thick and compact each layer to remove air spaces.

Then add sugar molasses at the rate of 3.5-4.0% of green weight of silage to improve silage quality and its palatability.

Furthermore enrich fodder with cereals for nitrogen content by spraying urea at rate of 0.5-1% and add lime at rate of 0.5 to 1% to silage to increase acid production.

Thereafter cover silage top with polythene then soil of 6 inch depth and pluck off areas of air and water entry to control spoilage.

Lastly use tower silo to make silage above the ground.