

Interpreting Your Grass Silage Report

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Target</i>
Key Measures of Nutritional Quality		
Dry Matter %	The quantity of the feedstuff less the water. Low values can result in poor intakes while high DM results in reduced aerobic stability and lower intakes	28-32%
Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD)	The key indicator to feed quality. High DMD results in greater intakes and better performance.	>72%
Crude Protein	Low CP may result in the need for more concentrates to balance the feed while too high of CP can result in poorer utilisation of the protein. Good crude protein is associated with leafy silage that has a high DMD.	13-16%
Key Measures of Fermentation Quality		
pH	The measure of acidity. High pH causes poor fermentation while low pH results in poor intakes.	3.8-4.2 pH
Ammonia as a % N	Ammonia results from protein breakdown during preservation. Low ammonia signifies good preservation with little protein breakdown while high ammonia leads to poor fermentation and intakes.	<7%
Lactic Acid	The main acid in silage. Low Lactic acid results in foul smelling material with poor feed quality.	50-90 g/Kg/DM

What sort of Livestock does my silage suit?

Target Silage Dry Matter Digestibility	
DMD %	Type Of Livestock
66 %	Dry Suckler Cows
68 %	Dry Dairy Cow (Good BCS)
70 %	Dry Dairy Cow (Poor BCS)/ Suckler Cow in Milk
72 %	Dairy Young Stock & Growing Cattle
74 %	Spring Calving Cows in Milk/ Finishing Cattle
75 %+	Fresh Autumn Calving Dairy Cows