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K**S****U**Trials on Commercial Silage Additives¹

Keith Bolsen

Introduction

Numerous commercial silage additives, manufacturers of which make various claims for their improving silage quality, are available to Kansas farmers and ranchers. In 2 previous years (1980 and 1981), we reported on nine trials involving six additives (Progress Reports 377 and 394). Each additive improved the silage in at least one of the four criteria we evaluated: 1) ensiling temperature, 2) dry matter recovery, 3) feeding value, and 4) aerobic stability. Two more trials with additives are reported on in this Progress Report (pages 6 and 11).

Summary

Summarized in Table 5.1 are dry matter recoveries for 20 additive silages and their 11 controls in trials conducted from 1975 to 1981. Recovery of feedable dry matter averaged 85.0% for controls and 87.9% for additives. Fifteen additive silages had higher DM recoveries than did controls; only five silages, the same or lower recoveries.

Table 5.1. Dry matter recovery for control and additive silages in 11 trials conducted from 1975 to 1981.*

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Silage and dry matter	Additive treatment	Recovery of feedable DM**	Silage and dry matter	Additive treatment	Recovery of feedable DM**
		%			%
Corn (38%)	control	80.9	Sorghum (33%)	control	91.0
	Silo Best ^R	87.5		Cold-flo	84.9
Corn (35%)	control	87.4	Alfalfa (36%)	Sila-bac	90.7
	Silo Guard ^R	93.7		control	84.6
Corn (44%)	control ^R	88.7		Ensila Plus	90.0
	Cold-flo ^R	91.5		Silo Guard ^R	89.7
	Sila-bac ^R	91.7	Sila-lator ^R	90.4	
	Silo-Best	91.3	Alfalfa (33%)	control	82.0
Corn (37%)	control	93.3		Sila-bac	82.0
	Cold-flo	88.5		Silo Guard	86.2
	Ensila Plus ^R	94.1			
Wheat (42%)	control	77.6	1981 trials		
	Ensila Plus	79.4	Corn (32%)	control	87.3
Sorghum (29%)	control	84.1		Silo-Best ^R	88.7
	Silo Guard	92.0	Sila-ferm ^R	87.4	
			Sorghum (30%)	control	78.1
				Sila-bac	81.1
				LSA-100 ^R	77.2
			11 -Trial avg. control		
			additive		87.9

* All silages were made in 10 ft x 50 ft concrete stave silos.

** Percent of the dry matter ensiled.

¹ Mention of products and companies is made with the understanding that no discrimination or endorsement is intended. Also, no criticism is implied of products and companies not mentioned.