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Silo-Best for Corn Silage¹

Keith Bolsen and Jack Riley

Experimental Procedure

Two corn silages (37 to 38% DM) were made September 2 and 3, 1975; one was ensiled without additive (control), the other with Silo-Best added at 1.0 lb. per ton of fresh crop. Silos were opened after 36 days, and each silage was full-fed to 15 yearling steers (3 pens of 5 steers) during an 87-day trial (October 10, 1975, to January 5, 1976). Complete-mixed rations contained 86% silage and 14% soybean meal supplement on a DM basis.

Results

Both silages appeared to be well preserved. Feeding results are shown in Table 15.1. Differences in steer performance were not statistically significant, but steers fed Silo-Best corn silage gained 5.3% faster and 2.9% more efficiently than those fed control corn silage.

Silage DM losses during fermentation and feedout were less for the Silo-Best corn silage (Table 15.2). Silo-Best silage had a 3 percentage unit lower fermentation loss (9.0 vs. 12.0% of the DM put into the silo) than control silage, and twice as much control silage spoiled from heating and molding. During the feeding period, control silage heated within 2 days after being removed from the silo compared with 7 days for the Silo-Best silage. Twice during the trial, control corn silage heated, spoiled, and was removed from the silo and not fed.

¹Silo-Best is an enzyme product of Cadco, Inc., 10100 Douglas Ave., Des Moines, IA 50322.

Table 15.1. Performances by yearling steers fed control and Silo-Best corn silages.

Item	Corn silage	
	Control	Silo-Best
Initial wt., lbs.	667	666
Avg. daily gain, lbs.	2.45	2.58
Avg. daily feed, lbs. ^a	18.83	19.17
Feed/lb. of gain, lbs. ^a	7.67	7.45

^a100% dry matter basis.

Table 15.2. Corn silage fermentation and spoilage losses.

Silage	DM put into the silo	DM taken out of the silo and fed	DM not fed (spoilage)	DM lost through fermentation
	lbs.	% of the DM put into the silo		
Control	40,800	80.9	7.1	12.0
Silo-Best	44,800	87.5	3.5	9.0