

Maximize the milk potential of your grass

Summary:

Low milk prices often force farmers to limit production costs. Yet, to make a good ration, good silage is necessary and helps ensure dry cows are in the best possible condition when milk prices start to recover.

Good quality, properly preserved silage brings more energy and nutrients, and — most importantly — more milk. On the other hand, badly preserved silage loses nutrients from heating and spoilage and can be detrimental to the cow's health status, leading to additional costs.

Recent national data showed that the use of Sil-All 4X4+ increases silage digestibility by 2% compared to untreated or acid treated forage.

For farm business, inoculants are the last piece of the jigsaw that preserve global investment and protect farm financial health and profitability.

Take home messages:

- ✓ **Treating silage, even during challenging milk prices, limits production costs**
- ✓ **Farmers invest into home grown forage and appropriate fermentation helps protect that investment**
- ✓ **Inoculants preserve the milk potential of silage by protecting its nutritional value**
- ✓ **Using Sil-All 4X4+, forage digestibility is greater than untreated or acid treated silage**

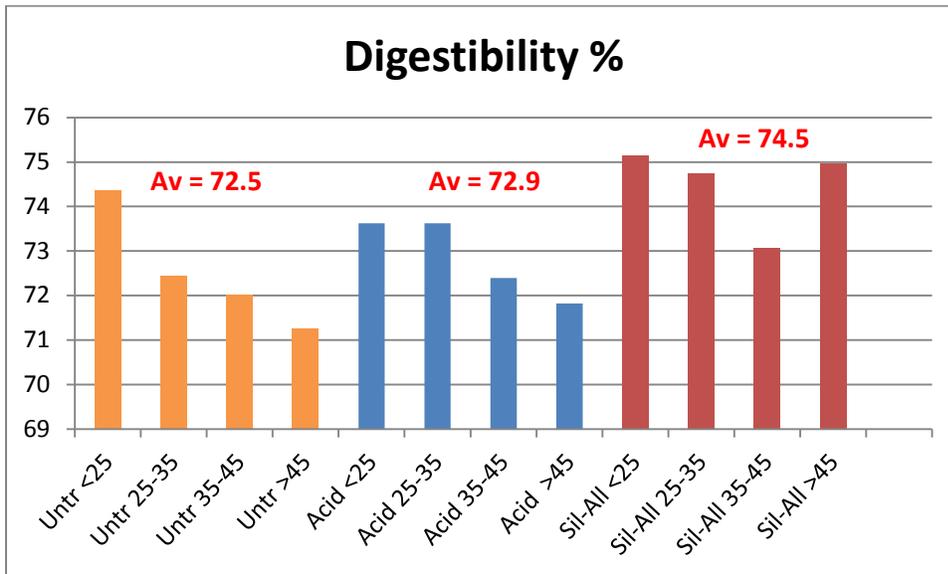
2016 was a hard year for the dairy industry with the end of milk quotas and low milk prices. 2017 promises the start of a recovery, and farms must think about maximizing productivity and ensuring that dry cows are in the best condition possible when milk prices start to recover. The key to this is, of course, the quality of the silage.

The better the grass you start with, the better milk potential your silage has. It starts with sunshine pushing sugar levels high. Come next cutting of the grass at the right height, not too low or enterobacteria can proliferate. Then farmers should ensure rapid wilting, clean collection, chopping and rapidly filling the clamp with good compaction and good sheeting. Farmers don't always have control over those parameters but this is what will maintain the optimal milk potential of silage.

Grass is valuable. The more protein, energy and digestibility that are maintained, the less purchased concentrate is needed – this is the start of the milk potential economics. The more efficiently the silage is made, the lower the losses to the environment. These losses are generally the most readily digestible material – this has a positive effect on the milk production of the animal, and on the feed conversion efficiency of the cow.

Yet grass isn't free – the cost of the seed, the fertilizer, the equipment, the diesel in tending and harvesting as well as the time –all adds up, so the more milk potential conserved through fermentation, the better the value the silage. Using an appropriate inoculant is giving nature a helping hand on the fermentation of the grass, to better conserve the nutrients that farmers have invested money in.

Table 1: Digestibility comparison of different ensiled forage (2,372 samples analyzed).



Source: TINE 2015

A review of more than **2,300** independently analyzed samples has demonstrated the value of Sil-All 4X4+ on the maintenance of digestibility of ensiled forage (90% of the bacterial treated silage in Norway is treated with Sil-All 4X4+. The quoted data above is for all bacterially treated forages)

Sil-All 4X4+ has been shown on a ***national*** scale to better maintain the initial digestibility of the ensiled forage by a full **2% of digestibility**. This also correlates to a significant protection of the dry matter (reduction in dry matter losses) through a significantly more efficient fermentation.

The Last Piece of the Jigsaw

Profitability on the farm is about getting as many actions as close to perfect as possible. The modern farmer knows how to look after his land, to select the best equipment, to identify the best animal traits, to read the weather and to understand finance all to get the optimal production from his animals. The average farmer has a high business skill set. The one thing that brings all this together to make the farm money is the quality of the silage. The best quality silage will give the best quality production. Sil-All 4X4+ is the last piece in the jigsaw to improving farm profitability by bringing together all these improvements.



With Sil-All, we have you covered.