



KELVIN CAVE LTD

Autumn 2013 Newsletter

Don't Gamble With Your Forage

With GUARANTEED Prolonged Storage Stability* Why Use Anything Else



Safesil™

Food-grade preservative for grass, wholecrop, legume and maize silage

- Eradicate silage spoilage organisms
- Maximise nutrient retention
- Guarantee* prolonged storage stability

*Journal of Dairy Science 94:824-831

Products you can trust

T : 01458 252281



Don't Lose Out – Stop Expensive Losses From Your Clamps

Last year's long wet summer and the long cold spring of 2013 saw conserved forage stocks at their lowest for many years, and, although the hot dry spell in the latter half of June and through July was welcome in many respects, it did little to help improve grass growth. However, maize crops look really good in most areas, and if you'd had the time to spare you'd probably have been able to see it growing during those long July days.

So, the potential is there for some good quality forage to help get stocks back up to where they need to be in order to be ready



to cope with what the winter might have in store for us. Maize silage is great forage to have in any ruminant ration, providing quality starch and useful fibre levels, as long as it is harvested at the correct stage and properly ensiled. Fermentation is never a problem because the low buffering capacity of the crop and relatively high DM mean that lactic acid bacteria can lower the pH of the forage very quickly.

However, this ease of fermentation is a double-edged sword because it also makes the silage very prone to aerobic instability caused by the yeasts and moulds that are present on the crop at harvest. This frequently results in waste on the top and shoulders of the clamp, and heating silage during feedout. This in turn can lead to the other ingredients that the silage is mixed with 'going off' faster than stock can eat the ration, resulting in reduced intakes and poor animal performance.

In the last few years farmers the length and breadth of the UK have found that some very cost-effective solutions to these potentially expensive losses are available.

In order to remove the risk of fermentation and instability losses and ensure that the valuable DM you harvest ends up where it's supposed to be – in your animals, using a proven silage preservative called Safesil is the long-awaited solution. Applied correctly Safesil guarantees prolonged storage stability and maximum DM retention, so if you want to ensure as much of the maize crop that you harvest is preserved to see your stock through the year contact Kelvin Cave Ltd as soon as possible.

Sheeting and sealing the clamp is rarely the most popular job on the farm, and handling multiple sheets on windy autumn days is not easy at the best of times. Now, the time taken to do this job can be reduced by 50% by using O2 Barrier 2in1, the single sheet that transforms into two on the clamp. Providing up to 10 times greater barrier to oxygen penetration than conventional polyethylene silage sheeting O2 Barrier will eliminate the risk of top and shoulder waste. Weighted down with ClampTiles and/or ClampNet, which offer a long-term replacement to mucky old tyres, the chore of sealing the clamp efficiently can almost be a pleasure!



The Sales Team

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Meet the team at the following shows. We'll be pleased to see you!

Westmorland County Show

12th September
Lane Farm, Crooklands, Kendal,
Cumbria, LA7 7NH

South West Dairy Event

2nd October
Bath & West Showground,
Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN

Borderway Agri Expo

1st November
Borderway Mart, Rosehill Industrial Estate,
Carlisle, CA1 2RS

AgriScot

20th November
Royal Highland Centre, Ingleston,
Edinburgh EH28 8NB

Royal Highland Winter Fair

27th November
Royal Highland Centre, Ingleston,
Edinburgh, EH28 8NB

Royal Welsh Winter Fair

2nd and 3rd December
Royal Welsh Showground, Llanellwedd
Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY

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Products you can trust



Andy Strzelecki

Technical Director



As contractors work towards improving efficiencies both for themselves and their clients, slurry management is becoming more important.

What are the main issues?

One of the key problem areas in successful dairy and pig farming is the management of slurry. Common problems experienced by many farmers include thick surface crust preventing rainwater penetration, sediments at the bottom of the tank or lagoon and high ammonia levels causing an unpleasant odour. All of this contributes to creating thick slurry that is difficult, costly and time-consuming to stir and pump.

What can we do to help eradicate these issues?

Extensive on-farm trials have shown that applying Digest-it® to the slurry will reduce crusting, break-down sludge and increase its overall fertilizer value.

Digest-it® is an innovative fermented culture product that is at the cutting edge of environmental standards. It contains a rich source of vitamins, minerals, proteins,

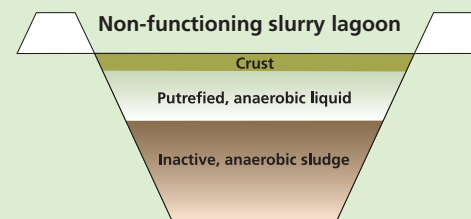
enzymes, amino acids, carbohydrates and dormant organisms that capture the ammonia in the slurry and convert it into organic, plant-available nitrogen while, at the same time releasing potash and phosphates from the solid fractions. In effect, Digest-it® provides a rich food source for aerobic microbes in the lagoon as well as introducing dormant aerobic bacteria species, which 'wake up' on coming into contact with slurry to support the digestion process.

How does it help?

Digest-it® creates and maintains a balanced microbial environment, making slurry stores and lagoons workable and efficient. The capture of ammonia and its conversion into organic nitrogen results in a significant reduction in smell. By effectively 'composting' the slurry in the store there is a big reduction in the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the soil, resulting in healthier soil microorganisms and more efficient nutrient utilisation.

Within 6 months of starting using Digest-it® a fuel saving of 66% during stirring and pumping has been recorded on farm. Treatment results in a transformation from crusty and inefficient waste to a bubbling valuable liquid fertiliser, much higher in nutrients.

Increases of up to 39% have been recorded in key nutrients, including Nitrogen, Potassium, Phosphorus, Magnesium and Sulphur. This is equivalent to approximately 9 tonnes of artificial fertilizer, and has resulted in a saving of over £2,000 on an 80ha farm.



Biological Slurry Digester for better soils, crops and stock

Digest-it®

- Reduces fertiliser costs
- Gets your slurry tank or lagoon working
- Stimulates aerobic microbial activity
- Converts solids into plant available liquid nutrients
- Digested slurry improves soil fertility

UK Dairy Farm 2009/10 Winter Trials...

Digest-it® was tested on 15 UK Dairy Farms.

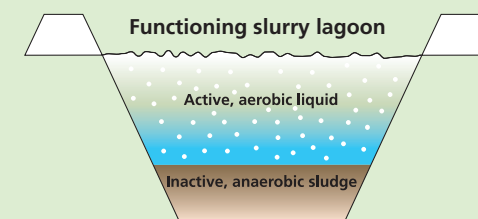
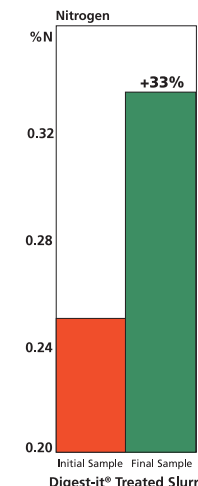
Average results from this extensive testing showed...

Digest-it® increased slurry fertiliser value

- Nitrogen +33%
- Phosphorus +28%
- Potassium +34%

Financial Value
+ £52.32/ha

Cost-effective Ratio
3:1 £ return





SilaPactor Increased Compaction Means Better Maize Silage with Lower DM Losses - John Mann

With a year-round average of 29 litres/cow/day from his 300 cows, John Mann of Crooklands Farm, Blencogo, Cumbria, takes the production of quality forage seriously, and has been using ClampFilm and Safesil to minimise wastage and losses ever since they became available in the UK. When he read the Press reports about the SilaPactor from Kelvin Cave Ltd. he realised that the company had found yet another 'piece of the jigsaw' to help him make top quality silage consistently. John knew that increasing the compaction density of his grass and maize silage would result in even lower DM losses from his clamps, and better utilisation of clamp space.

John struck a deal with Michael Carpenter, Kelvin Cave's North of England sales manager, and a SilaPactor was delivered to his farm in time to consolidate 3rd cut grass and maize silage.

John gets his local contractor, Horsley's, to provide a self-propelled forager and trailers, but likes to mow, ted and fill the clamp with his own equipment. He takes personal responsibility for clamp filling, using a JD 125hp tractor with front-mounted buck rake, and it was to this unit that the SilaPactor was added.

"Operating the buck rake and the 4 tonne, 3 metre wide SilaPactor keeps my hands busy at the controls," says John, "but the ability of the implement to consolidate the silage tight to the clamp walls, eliminating air pockets and increasing silage density, provides a solid, stable base to work on because it compacts so well across the full width, I'm saving fuel as well."

The analysis of both the 3rd cut and the maize showed that John had made a wise investment, and this trend has continued with better silage quality and no waste.

Neighbouring farmers have seen the improvements that the SilaPactor has made on John's farm. "You can see the quality at the clamp face," comments John, "we've had no clamp 'shrinkage' and everyone notices how cleanly the shear-grab cuts the well-compacted silage. As a result they've been keen to hire it to use on their own silage, which means the implement is getting plenty of use. I am certain that a tight clamp equals quality forage, which means happy, productive cows."



The SilaPactor is yet another of John's success stories using products from Kelvin Cave Ltd. His father started using crimped grain treated with Crimpstore 15 years ago and firmly believes there is nothing to beat it. Now, with his silage treated with Safesil, compacted with the SilaPactor and sealed with ClampFilm his results speak for themselves



Saucy Sally's recipe for the **best** silage



Safesil™

- The best silage preservative for nutrient retention
- The best for guaranteed* prolonged storage stability
- The best for eradicating silage spoilage organisms
- **The best return on your investment**

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AerWorx Measures Up To Expectations - Colin Singleton

Brothers Colin, James and Andrew Singleton run their 220 cow pedigree Holstein herd and followers at White Hill Farm, Goosnargh, Lancashire. The all grass farm produces 3 to 4 cuts of high quality silage each year, which they harvest with their own self-propelled forage harvester. Aiming for a DM of 28% they ensile around 3,000 tonnes of silage, equivalent to approximately 840 tonnes of DM.

Last year's wet summer, and the fact that a new building now allows them to house all their replacement heifers through the winter instead of sending them off-farm, put severe pressure on forage stocks. As a result they had to buy 700 tonnes of silage to meet their needs. At a true cost of around £40 per tonne (including transport and time) this is an expense they aim to avoid in future.

The brothers are well aware of soil compaction problems on their land, and that this can cause significant reductions in grass DM yields. They have used a Shakaerator to

help alleviate the problem in the past, but, although it did a good job in the long term, they found that its slow work-rate and the fact that it left the ground very uneven, brought stones to the surface and checked grass growth during dry conditions did not suit their farm.

When Michael Carpenter, Area Sales Manager for Kelvin Cave in the North of England, explained what the AerWorx aerator could do (high work-rates (6-8 acres per hour) and using it between silage cuts with minimal soil disturbance), all three brothers were keen to give it a trial and measure the results.

First, Colin took Michael to a field which he admitted was a bit of an embarrassment. Reseeded in poor conditions two years ago there was very little grass growth and slurry residues were visible on the surface. Digging holes with a spade revealed a classic shallow 'pan' with horizontal cracking, no worms and very little grass root growth deeper than three inches. The soil had a 'stale' smell and was clearly not coming 'up-to-scratch'. Keen to find a solution, Colin agreed to trial the AerWorx immediately after first cut silage was

harvested. They agreed to treat half the field and recruit independent local forage and soil specialist James Bretherton of Agscope to measure subsequent grass growth using a plate meter.

Initial measurements were taken straight after the AerWorx treatment and again after 17 days. Even after this short length of time the plate meter showed an increase in grass DM yield of 10% on the treated area compared to the untreated. The measurement was repeated 3 weeks after second cut silage had been taken off and a 12% increase in yield was recorded.

At this point more holes were dug and soil structure had improved dramatically. The soil was crumblier than before, with four or five worms in each spadeful and had a healthier, less sour smell, indicating an increase of beneficial aerobic soil microorganisms.

Acknowledging that most of their fields will have a compaction problem to a greater or lesser degree, the brothers realised that even if they achieved a 5% increase in DM yield across all cuts this could reduce the cost of

buying in extra silage by at least £6,000 per year!

"What we like most about the AerWorx," says Andrew Singleton, "is the fast work-rate and ease of operation. We can hitch up and do a few fields between milkings, or get one of our casual tractor drivers on the job if we don't have time. I was surprised that we saw no check in grass growth even during the dry weather."

"I'm pleased with the lack of soil-surface disturbance," adds his brother James. "I was concerned that we would see soil and stones on the surface, which could compromise silage quality if they got picked up by the forager. My fears were groundless!"

The brothers have invested in a 30" trailed AerWorx which they plan to hire out when not in use at White Hill Farm. They also expect to get better slurry utilization and may even be able to extend their grazing season by a couple of weeks due to the better grass growth.



Before



After





Crimpstore and Propcorn NC User Friendly and Effective Grain Preservation - George Stirling

Scottish farmer, George Stirling, farms 625 acres, lambing 200 ewes, fattening 400+ cattle and growing 165 acres of cereals and operates a thriving farm-contracting business crimping and rolling grain and pulses for farms in the Anstruther to Stirling.

Dry rolled grain used to be the norm for feeding cattle, but George's father introduced him to the benefits of feeding Propcorn NC-treated grain. George now feeds his stock moist Propcorn NC-treated and rolled homegrown cereals. He has found that this palatable and nutritious ration ensures good intakes and better feed conversion than dry grain. The wider window for harvest, at up to 25% moisture content, is also welcome as it allows earlier autumn planting.

George and his wife Alison operate the contracting business with two Kelvin Cave machines. The first is a Korte 1400 crimper specifically designed for the effective processing of grain harvested, rolled and ensiled at 35-45% moisture, and pulses with moisture content of 25-35%. This crimped feed is treated with Crimpstore preservative, a unique, non-corrosive blend of organic acids, designed to maximise nutrient retention and ensure stability of the resulting concentrate which is harvested at optimal nutritional value and digestibility.

The second is a high-output KC Bruiser 1250 machine, built to George's specification, which works most weeks of the year. The Bruiser is used for grain below 25% moisture which is treated with Propcorn NC at harvest, and dry grain rolling the rest of the year, averaging

spectacular 42tph outputs on wheat and barley when driven by George's 230 hp MF6499 tractor.

For George the big advantage of Propcorn NC and Crimpstore is that they are non-corrosive and don't produce the acrid fumes associated with un-buffered acid products, making it easier for the operator and ensuring the mills remain in good condition, even after treating many thousands of tonnes a year.

George comments that even storing grain at 16-17% moisture, he prefers to give the grain a 'whiff' of Propcorn NC as it keeps much better during the damp Scottish winters and helps keep mites at bay. Every customer has a different need and different stock require different rations, from rolled and treated oats for pre-lambing sheep in January to Crimpstore-treated barley for beef rations throughout the year. The sweet-smelling, home-produced concentrate feeds George produces appear to be always welcome.



Ollie's best 2in1 silage film - O2 Barrier 2in1



AS STRONG AS AN OX



O² Barrier 2in1

is an innovative combination of polyethylene silage film and polyamide vacuum film in a single sheet.

This unique product is only 100µm thick but offers up to ten times less oxygen-permeability, and at least as much strength, as conventional sheeting systems - ensuring the rapid formation and sustainability of anaerobic conditions in the clamp.

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Products you can trust

ClampTiles

Securing your silage investment

No more mucky tyres!

- Effective weight where it's needed
- Ergonomically designed for ease of handling
- Protects silage sheet from bird damage
- Stackable for tidy storage



Ensuring effective, weighty coverage of silage sheeting is part of the answer to making quality, waste-free silage.

ClampTiles have been designed to meet this need, and eliminate the unpleasant work involved when working with tyres.

Suitable for partial coverage weighting sides and sheet joints, or total coverage if minimising the risk of bird damage is necessary.

ClampTiles are easy to handle and do not trap water which provides a breeding ground for insects. They can be stacked tidily on a pallet and stored away when not in use.

ClampTiles are made from 90% recycled material, and have a useful life expectancy of at least 15 years.

ClampNet

- Heavy-duty 300gm/m² protective silage netting only £1.33/m²
- Gravel bags 88p each



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