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Silo-best for corn silage

Abstract
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.

Keywords
Cattlemen's Day, 1980; Report of progress (Kansas State University. Agricultural Experiment Station); 377; Beef; Corn silage; Additive; Soybean meal

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Silo-Best for Corn Silage
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.

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Corn silage</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Silo-Best</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial wt., lbs.</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>666</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. daily gain, lbs.</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. daily feed, lbs.</td>
<td>18.83</td>
<td>19.17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed/lb. of gain, lbs.</td>
<td>7.67</td>
<td>7.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*100% dry matter basis.

Table 15.2. Corn silage fermentation and spoilage losses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silage</th>
<th>DM put into the silo</th>
<th>DM taken out of the silo and fed</th>
<th>DM not fed (spoilage)</th>
<th>DM lost through fermentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lbs.</td>
<td>% of the DM put into the silo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>40,800</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silo-Best</td>
<td>44,800</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>