

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE STRETCH WRAP.

You have in your hands a high quality film which requires some previous knowledge in order to use it properly to get the optimum results.

Your bales are very valuable, but you will only obtain satisfactory results if they are sealed correctly. After almost 40 years of experience helping stockbreeders, we have developed a list of valuable advice which must always be followed in order for you to achieve a perfect silage.

First of all, if you receive either a damaged pallet or any imperfect rolls, don't use them. Report it in writing to your distributor or dealer with full details within 14 days so that they can be replaced immediately. You will find the production batch number inside of the core.

Before use, the film roll must be kept protected in its cardboard box in a dry area, out of sunlight and away from any source of extreme heat. The stretch wrap is a "live" product which evolves over time, its properties will alter if it is not stored suitably. The ideal storage temperature is between 15° and 20° C. (= 60°-68° F)

These rolls must be used within one year of the purchase date.

Treat the rolls with a great care, avoiding blows, particularly on the edges, because during wrapping the film would tear.

Avoid the film and bales coming into direct contact with any chemical product (for example: herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers, sulphur dust, ammonia, chlorine, mineral oils, copper based products, zinc or iron dust, etc.) These chemicals speed up the natural disintegration of agricultural plastics.

Avoid leaving the rolls exposed to the sun while on the tractor, wrapper or in the pick-up. During this time, they should be placed in the shade.

Avoid wrapping during hours of extreme heat. It is recommended to wrap below temps. of 30° C. (= 86° F) and in the shade whenever possible.

MOWING & SWATHING

Cut the grass when it begins to come into ear. The grass will have sufficient sugar-content and will be more easily digested by the animals.

Cut the grass on dry, sunny days and avoid rainy days. When a bale is sealed with excessive humidity, harmful bacterias, moulds and butyric acid develop which threaten the health of your livestock.

Do not wrap in the rain, as this will reduce seal between layers.

BALING

Bales for silage must be sealed with between 35% and 50% dry matter (DM). Low DM content increases the formation of harmful bacteria and toxic effluents. A DM content of more than 55% increases the risk of mould formation and causes sugar loss.

When making Haylage, DM will be between 55 and 65% therefore, the fermentation process is weaker and slower compared to wet silage making. This means that oxygen will not be totally consumed and moulds can develop regardless the number of layers applied. Sometimes it is recommended the use of a suitable liquid additive at baling that will provide high levels of fermentable carbohydrates to promote a rapid lactic acid fermentation and will improve the DM preservation of your haylage. Ideally, the makers of haylage should be highly experienced at making the product, and have a good understanding of the requirements for horses.

The bales must be symmetrical, of equal size and very well compressed so that they are stable and retain as little air as possible. In bales that are irregular, the film pre-stretches excessively and does not achieve correct overlapping, which can allow air to enter the interior of the bale.

Do not use Sisal twine (it is impregnated with additives which cause the stretch film to disintegrate). Use only polyethylene net or polypropylene twine for baling.

WRAPPING

It is recommended that bales be wrapped within 2 hours of baling in order to reduce the risk of deformation and avoid using more film than necessary. Additionally, and more important, after 2 hours the fermentation process will take place and you risk getting a lower quality silage.

Ensure that the wrapper with its pre-stretching unit is correctly maintained (the pre-stretch rollers regularly cleaned with white spirit to remove tack, specially wrappers fitted with rubber rollers and the pre-stretcher moving parts adequately lubricated as recommended by the manufacturer).

The pre-stretching unit must be assembled on the wrapper in such a way that the film roll is horizontally aligned at the same height as the centre of the bale.

Place film roll on the pre-stretch unit so that exterior side of the film will face inwards towards bale when applied since this is the most adhesive side.

For round bales: pre-stretch the film between 55% and 70% maximum.

For square bales use only 750mm. or 30" width film and pre-stretch to a maximum of 80%.

Check the pre-stretching level by measuring the width of the film on the flat side once it is stretched over the round bale: The film width has to be between 38 and 42 cms (15" – 16.5") for 500 mm (20") rolls and between 58 and 62 cms (23" – 24.4") for 750 mm (30") rolls.

If after checking the pre-stretch level you find an overstretch film, stop wrapping until the cause is established and solved.

An over stretched film is easily broken leaving the bale unprotected. Excessive pre-stretching prevents the correct overlapping of the layers of film and this would allow air to enter the bale causing mould formation and spoilage.

We strongly recommend that a minimum of 6 layers of film are used over all surface of the bale. To achieve this, use the 2+2+2 system (= 6 complete turns of film over the bale with a 50% overlapping). In order to calibrate the wrapping machine and determine the number of layers being applied, count the number of turntable or sweep arm revolutions needed to just cover the bale (with a 50% overlapping), then add 1. Multiply the number obtained by 3 and you'll come up with a minimum of 6 layers of film all over the bale.

The use of 6 layers of film gives optimum protection and greatly increases the quality of the silage due to the reduction of mould formation. For square bales always cover with a minimum of 6 layers of film although 8 layers or more are recommended when storing for more than 6 months or when wrapping Haylage.

When wrapping using a continuous tubeline system, a minimum of 6 layers of film must be applied to the joints between the bales. For this application a clear colour film is always needed (white or light green) in order to reduce the tensions originated on dark films due to their higher temperature absorption.

HANDLING & STORAGE

Make sure that the end of the film does not hang loose from the finished bale. Some wrappers cut the film when the bales are on the ground leaving a 1 meter tail.

It is very important to carry out the wrapping process near the area where the bales are to be stored in order to avoid unnecessary handling which could allow air to enter the bale.

Ensure that on completion of wrapping, bales are not damaged when they are off loaded.

Round bales with a high dry matter (DM) content may be stacked on three levels. In contrast, bales with a low DM, less dense, must be stored on just one height to avoid that the weight from on top deforms the bale letting air to enter the bales.

Whenever possible, we recommend that the bales should be stacked vertically, resting them on one of the two flat sides. Stacking the bales on their flat ends may reduce potential damage to the plastic as there are many more layers of film covering these sides.

Bales must be handled with care and taken to the storage area as soon as possible, avoiding dents, friction and holes during transport. This greatly limits the risk of air or water entering the bale. Mishandling wrapped bales always risks damage and spoilage of part or all of the bale.

SAFETY TIPS

Store the bales away from trees, railings, sharp objects and away from accumulated water, excessive mud or water courses. A sand or fine gravel surface is ideal.

Keep the storage area fenced to prevent access and damage by livestock.

We recommend the use of a polypropylene net over the top of the stack to cover and protect the bales from animals such as birds and cats. It is also recommended to set rodent traps with the proper markings and identification around the storage area.

The film has been treated with anti U.V. additives to guarantee a maximum 12 month outdoors exposure under a top 120–140 K-Langleys sun radiation assuming that all the previous guidelines have been respected. Therefore, bales should be used at most within 12 months of wrapping.

Remove any visible spoilage within the bale on opening, before feeding to livestock. Fodder which contains spoilage must not be fed to breeding stock, sheeps or horses.

Regularly check the bales and repair any breaks in the film using an opaque polythene adhesive tape in order to prevent air entering the bale (do not use transparent office tape).

Wrapping has to be performed only by duly trained persons how have read and followed all the recommended instructions. Do not allow children to have access to the balewrapper or the bales when stacked.

Since there are many variables which influence the final result, the silage quality is out of the control of the film producer and reseller. Liability is restricted to replacement of the film only and claims cannot be accepted for consequential loss. Replacement of the film will be considered only if a non conformity is found and provided that the film was not damaged due to a careless handling.

Because the plastic wrap can be used for baled silage only once, it is important to check with your local government on applicable statutes in your area for disposal or recycling. Used plastic, should be baled and collected for recycling. Do not bury or burn it.

DISCLAIMER:

The instructions leaflet included on every silage wrap box shall be read and followed by every person involved in the silage process before using the product. Failure to follow the submitted written guidelines could result in a damaged silage.

The seller will not be responsible for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damage or any other damages whatsoever and howsoever caused, arising out of or in connection with a misuse or misapplication of the supplied silage wrap according to the enclosed instructions.

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