

My silage analysis is not very good but they are eating it fairly quickly.

The dry matter of the silage is 19% so there is only 190Kg of dry matter per tonne. The dry matter intake requirement of your cattle would be around 8kg/DM/day. The cows would need to consume nearly 40Kg of fresh silage to achieve this so it is no wonder they are eating it fairly quickly. This quantity of forage is difficult for growing cattle to take and it is likely that they will not gain much weight unless fed some concentrate.

There is more mould than usual on the outside of my bales this year. Why and what should I do about it.

Mould can occur for a few reasons, but this year could be worse than usual because the grass that was ensiled is worse than usual. The problem is either soil contamination harvesting in wet conditions and/or old mature grass that already has moulds developing on the senescing material. The dry bale has more oxygen present to continue the growth of these moulds or a hole in the wrap has occurred. You should discard areas of mould and avoid feeding any poor bales to pregnant livestock.

Sefydliad Gwyddorau Biolegol, Amglycheddol a Gwledig
Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences

Canolfan Datblygu Tir Glas, Prifysgol Aberystwyth
Grassland Development Centre, Aberystwyth University,
Gogerddan, Ceredigion, SY23 3EB

Ffôn / Tel: (01970) 823026 / 823028
Ffacs: (01970) 828357