

Focus on Forage

Monday, September 23, 2019

Jon Kemp, DVM

Packing Rules

1. **Pack individual layers.** Our goal is to push up layers at 5 inches or less. By packing each layer as it is pushed up we can go a good job of compressing the crop. This excludes the air and promotes good anaerobic fermentation. Avoid “catching up” when trucks get ahead of push up tractor(s).
2. **When using a progressive wedge method, keep the incline to a 3:1 ratio** (three feet of run to each one foot of rise). This will allow the weight of the packing tractors to concentrate on the pack to compress the chopped crop.
3. **When using a drive-over pile, maintain safe slopes in all directions.** The main axis of the pile needs to be the primary focus for packing with layers of 5 inches or less. However, back-and-forth side-to-side packing will require safe slopes for frequent packing to press out air and minimize waste on these slopes. This resource from the University of Wisconsin may provide helpful information when planning drive-over piles.
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/files/2017/03/A3511.pdf>
4. **Keep direction of travel straight – up and down the slope.** That means minimizing turning on the pack.

This issue completes our 6-part series on harvesting and storing corn silage. All 6 parts may be accessed at www.atticacows.com at the Resource drop-down menu – select “AVA Newsletter.”

Attica Veterinary Associates, P.C. 585-591-2660 atticacows.com