



Centra Sota - Feed

AVOID FEEDING NEWLY HARVESTED CORN SILAGE: PUT UP EXTRA CORN SILAGE NEXT YEAR

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Each fall many dairy producers struggle to maintain milk production. This year's production struggles probably have something to do with the summer's severe heat stress, but the main culprit from year-to-year is the feeding of newly harvested corn silage. Fresh, unfermented corn silage is lower in energy, due to low digestibility of fiber and starch. Cows typically increase in milk production around January, as the corn silage becomes fully fermented. As the corn silage becomes more fermented, the fiber and starch become more digestible, thus providing more energy to the cow. Nutritionists try to account for the unfermented corn silage by increasing energy and decreasing fiber in the diet. As the fermentation progresses, energy and fiber levels are pulled back to normal levels. It tends to be a struggle to keep the ration consistent.

Cows like consistency and ration consistency makes milk. Most high producing dairy herds avoid feeding unfermented corn silage. If you struggle with milk production each fall, think about putting together a plan to put up a 4 month extra supply of corn silage next year. With an extra 4 month supply in one year, you can change your feeding pattern. Each year you can start feeding new corn silage in January instead of September; therefore, feeding only feeding fermented corn silage and keeping the ration consistent.