



The Economics of Inoculating

Feed costs are a major dairy business expense, accounting for 40-60% of the total cost of milk production. Forages can represent half of that total. With the current economic situation, many producers may decide to cut back on costs and not use a silage inoculant this year. According to *Midwest Dairy Business*, November 2005, the average dry matter loss is 18.5% at 12 lbs/ft³.

Consider the cost of dry matter losses; a yield of 25 tons of silage per acre with a value of \$20 per harvested ton, the average corn silage value lost is about \$125 per acre. The inclusion of a quality silage inoculant is an investment every producer needs to continue to use this year.



Cost analysis: Treated vs. Non-treated

Silage value per ton	\$ value per 1000 ton	\$ loss with 25% shrink	\$ loss with 10% shrink	Sil-All ^{4x4} cost per 1000 ton	Savings in DM retention with Sil-All ^{4x4} per 1000 ton
\$30	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$3,000	Aprox. \$400	\$900- \$1,500
\$40	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	Aprox. \$400	\$1,200- \$2,000
\$50	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$5,000	Aprox. \$400	\$1,500- \$2,500

Top Five Benefits of Inoculation with Sil-All^{4x4}:

1. Reduce dry matter losses = more silage to feed
2. Increase the speed and quality of fermentation
3. True Protein Technology[®] ensures maximum natural protein is retained in silage
4. More palatable silage = improves dry matter intake
5. Increase milk production/increase live weight gain = more profitability

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