

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPERIEUR AGROEQUIPEMENT

LANGUE VIVANTE ETRANGERE EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS

**DUREE : 3 HEURES
COEFFICIENT : 1**

L'usage du dictionnaire bilingue est autorisé
Calculatrices et traducteurs électroniques sont interdits

Dès que le sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il soit complet.
Le sujet comporte 3 pages, numérotées de 2 à 3

Silage making

AGLVE:AGL

What's the value of control and how much are you prepared to pay for it? We speak to two Lancashire dairy farmers with contrasting views on the best approach to silage making

WHILE SOME growers insist the effective control of silage operations requires the purchase of all the machinery necessary to complete the task, others believe that being able to summon the services of a contractor is control in itself.

Dairy farmer John Core's view is that to invest in a forage harvester, tedder¹, rake and mower - plus a clamp loader and a few trailers - cannot make sense for a single farm business.

Based near Balderstone, Blackburn, John runs his 170 cows and followers² on 120ha (300 acres). Herd average is 7500 litres a year.

"There was a time when we used to make our own silage," he explains.

"But I wouldn't even begin to think about doing it now. Our focus is on milk production and milk processing - not on ensiling forage."

PURCHASE

Two years ago M. Core purchased a new 3.1m trailed mower conditioner. "I know it seems a strange decision to mow grass and then employ a contractor to get it in the clamp but I feel that having the control of when we mow a field is important if I am to end up with good quality silage in the clamp - which is what it's all about," he explains.

He liaises with his contractor when he is about to start mowing to ensure the grass can be ensiled within 48 hours.

"We use the Kuhn mower to knock down about 55ha (140 acres) of first cut silage in a couple of days and the contractor can have it all in the clamp only a day later.

"The point is that by having our own mower we get to control the silage operation from the start - cutting the grass at its optimum growth stage," he says.

It also means that, with the grass cleared so quickly, the fields can be top dressed³, encouraging the grass to re-grow.

"My contractor charges about £11/ha (£27/acre) and it would have been another £3/ha (£7/acre) if he did the mowing. I know I've got the mower's depreciation and running costs to cover, but I feel we end up with higher quality silage which benefits our business and reduces our feed costs overall."

For Jim Rowland, who runs a dairy farm about 30 miles from John Core, the thought of using a contractor to make his silage is not one to be entertained⁴.

"In the past we used a contractor but with his commitments to other customers it was nearly always impossible to get him when we wanted him.

"I really believe that silage making is too important an operation to leave in the hands of others," he insists.

Just north of Preston, Mr Rowland's 110ha (270 acre) farm is home to 160 cows, 100 followers and an over-wintered⁵ flock of sheep. Apart from 8ha (20 acres) of whole-crop winter wheat, grass silage forms the mainstay⁶ of the cows' ration.

"We aim to make about 2000t each year which we get from 140 acres of first cut, about 95 acres of second and 40 acres of third," he explains.

"We can start when we want to, stop when we want to and we don't call on the services of anyone."

With an armoury of kit which includes a trailed 2.8m mower conditioner, an 8.5m tedder and 7.3m rake, grass is harvested using a trailed forager.

"Our main investment has been in the mower which is only a couple of years old," he explains.

"I bought the forager second-hand and it costs less than a contractor would charge to make our silage."

But silage making is not just about having the right machinery, it is also about having the right operators.

A detail not lost on M. Rowland who considers himself fortunate in currently having a sufficient number of relatives available and willing to help out during the silage period.

"Labour is an increasingly rare commodity," he says. "If we couldn't get enough people of the right calibre to help us we might have to re-think the whole operation."

SUCCESS

He emphasises that mowing is one of the key operations in successful silage production.

"We aim to make silage with a 25-30%DM⁷," says M. Rowland. "It is an essential ingredient in our feeding regime and to entrust its making to others is not an option for us." ■ • fwmachery@rbi.co.uk

¹tedder = une faneuse

²followers (dans le contexte) = veaux

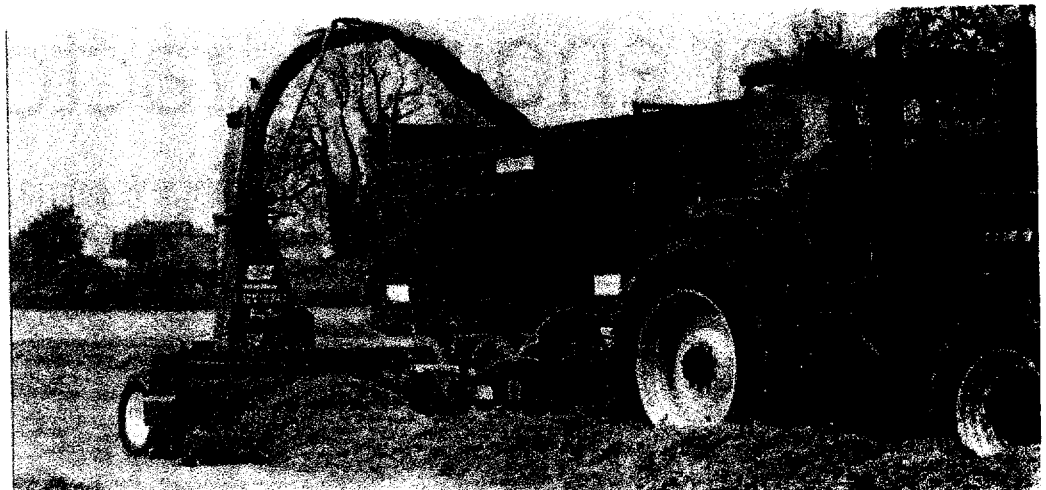
³to top dress = fertiliser

⁴the thought of...is not one to be entertained = l'idée de...n'est pas à retenir

⁵over-wintered = qui hiverne

⁶the mainstay = la base

⁷DM. Dry Matter



AJForager is responsible for all 110 ha (275 acres) of grass silage made for Jim Rowland's mixed dairy and sheep enterprise

COMPTE RENDU : 12 points

Rédigez, **en français**, le compte-rendu de l'article.

(350 mots environ plus ou moins 10 %)

EXPRESSION : 8 points

Rédigez, **en anglais** :

En vous appuyant sur le texte, ainsi que sur vos connaissances personnelles, rédigez un paragraphe dans lequel vous tenterez de convaincre Jim Rowland d'avoir recours aux services d'un entrepreneur pour l'ensilage.

(150 mots environ)