Ag-Bag® Advantage

A publication on management practices and tips using the Ag-Bag® sealed storage system. Fall 2001

WSU Research Studies Bagged Feed to Alternative Methods

A recent study conducted by Joe Harrison, Professor of Dairy Science and Extension Specialist at Washington State University, concluded that bagged silage costs less than silos, bunkers or pile system storage. The study

began in November 2000 as a collaborative effort between Ag-Bag Int'l, Washington State University and the Werkhoven Dairy. There were 5 silage bags filled. Each measuring 10 ft. X 200 ft. Every load in was weighed and sampled and every load out was weighed and sampled. Test results indicate a 99.1% dry matter recovery from the silage bags. In short, minimal shrinkage means maximum feed. "When comparing weighed in and weighed out losses on an annual basis, the bagging system has been proven to be the least cost alternative to silos, bunker and pile systems."(Holmes, 1998, U of WI)

99.1% Dry Matter Recovery

Look for more research findings in the next Ag-Bag Advantage newletter.

Let Us Help You Put Up the Best Quality Feed For a Lower Cost.

G6000 Ag-Bagger® Series
- 8', 9' or 10' diameter bags
- Interchangeable tunnel size with one Ag-Bagger®
- PTO-driven
- 65 to 85 HP required
- Easily handles 3,000 to 5,000 tons per year.

G6700 Ag-Bagger® Series
- 8' or 9' diameter bags
- PTO driven
- 100 HP required
- 3,000 to 6,000 ton per year.

7000 Ag-Bagger® Series
- 9' or 10' diameter bags
- Self-propelled by 145-HP John Deere diesel
- Also available PTO driven, 90 to 150 HP required (Model G7000)
- 6,000 to 20,000 tons per year.

M10,000 Ag-Bagger®
- 12' diameter bags
- Self propelled via 425 HP John Deere Power Tech
- Handles 8,000 to 100,000 tons annually.

Ag-Bag has the option of using cable machines or the new HyPAC series of cableless machines. Call for more information.

AG-BAG INTERNATIONAL LTD

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Bale Storage Systems
- Ag-Bag Flex-A-Tuber® for high moisture round bales, oxygen limiting.
- Ag-Bag Square Bale Bagger® for a variety of square bale size. Shrinks to limit oxygen.

Ag-Bag Tri-Dura® Bags
- Specifically developed for this technology.
- All needed diameters, 100' to 500' long.
- Recyclable.

Ag-Bag Plus® Inoculant
- The only one made for bagging.
- Soluble or dry
- 5 lactic-acid producing strains and 2 enzymes.

Teamwork: The Key to Successful Bagging

Every smart business person knows that it takes teamwork to be successful. Scott Witter and his partner LaMar have been custom harvesting as a team for five years. Located in Okeechobee, Florida, Scott and LaMar do custom harvesting for fifteen dairy and beef operations and three ranches. The average dairy size is 600 cows with the largest being 8,500 cattle.

They have teamed up with Ag-Bag by using two HyPac 10,000 silage bagging machines with a 12 ft. tunnel. "We chop 80,000-100,000 tons of grass haylage and 90% gets bagged." Scott says, "and every bit of chopped feed gets inoculant. It increases the quality of the feed. That's what our customers want." "Every customer we have bagged silage for wants more bagged feed because of their experience with increased production," comments Scott, "The farmer dictates to me and the cow dictates to the farmer."

Advantages of bagged feed over bunkers and silos for the farmer include increased quality, decreased spoilage, consistent crude fiber source and the ability to store feed without deterioration. They do a small amount of baleage with an Ag-Bag tuber that seals up round bales in plastic tubes.

This team works a 50 mile radius around Okeechobee. LaMar points out, "The Ag-Bag machines make our job easier. We just fold up the machine and safely head down the road to the next job. It's that easy." Scott adds, "Ag-Bag is always there when we need service for our machines. We can't make money if we're down, and Ag-Bag knows that."

In Florida the biggest challenge is the heat. With a subtropical climate cows need to be fed consistent high quality feed to maintain production in the heat. One of Scott and LaMar's oldest customers runs a 1,300 cow dairy and is now ranked the 6th highest herd average for milk production in the state. He says he couldn't have achieved that without using bagged feed.

Scott and LaMar agree that their teamwork with Ag-Bag has paid off over the years. "We look forward a continued relationship with Ag-Bag and all of our customers to make us an even better team in the future," says Scott.

Visit our web site www.ag-bag.com