

THE EFFECT OF HARVESTER TYPE (SELF PROPELLED, TRAILED OR FORAGE WAGON) AND STORAGE METHOD (BUNKER OR DRIVE OVER PILE) ON THE FORAGE DENSITY OF GRASS SILAGE ACROSS FINLAND



J. PAKKALA¹ AND G. MARLEY²

¹Karki Agri, Seinajoki, Finland

²Danstar Ferment AG, Poststrasse 30, 6300 ZUG, Switzerland

Karki Agri

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INTRODUCTION

Density and pore spaces of ensiled forages have direct correlation to dry matter (DM) loss through fermentation and storage, by affecting the degree to which air can penetrate into and behind the face of the bunker or the drive over pile.

OBJECTIVE

Determine the effect of harvester type and storage method on the forage density of grass silage in Finland

MATERIAL & METHODS

- Forage** : Primarily Timothy grass (mean DM 28.4% ± SD 8.3%)
- Survey** : 300 commercial farms across Finland
- Measurements** :
 - Density of silage
 - DM content of silage
 - Height and type of silo
 - Harvester type

SAMPLE NO	DATE	STORAGE METHOD	MACHINERY	SAMPLE HEIGHT	PILE HEIGHT TOTAL	ADDITIVE	SAMPLE HEIGHT	CORING DEPTH	FRESH DENSITY	DM	DRY DENSITY	CUTTER & GRAB
410	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	2.0	1.5	Blindfold	10.72	12.0	455	31.2	1436	DM
411	14.11.2014	Bunker	Trailed forager	2.0	1.5	AVU	10.12	12.0	520	28.2	1456	DM
412	14.11.2014	Bunker	Trailed forager	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.00	10.0	411	25.2	1326	DM
413	14.11.2014	Bunker	Trailed forager	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	510	31.0	1456	DM
414	14.11.2014	Bunker	Trailed forager	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	510	31.0	1456	DM
415	14.11.2014	Bunker	Trailed forager	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
416	14.11.2014	Bunker	Trailed forager	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
417	14.11.2014	Drive over pile	Trailed forager	1.0	2	AVU	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
418	14.11.2014	Drive over pile	Trailed forager	1.0	2	AVU	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
419	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	AVU	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
420	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	AVU	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
421	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
422	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
423	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
424	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
425	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
426	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
427	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
428	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
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438	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
439	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
440	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
441	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM
442	14.11.2014	Bunker	Loader wagon	1.0	2	Blindfold	10.10	10.0	456	27.8	1356	DM



Figure 1. Example of data collected during survey

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

A. SILO TYPE

- Density of the grass silage in **walled silos** was statistically significantly greater than that in the **drive over piles** ($P < 0.05$) (Table 1)

Table 1. Description of storage system, method of harvesting and density analysis

Storage System	n	Harvesting System	n	Density Kg/m ³ DM	Density Kg/m ³ DM			
					Mean	SD	Min	Max
Walled Silos	323	Self Propelled	139	183.91 ^{a,b}	193.7 ^{a,b}	37.7	82.8	289.1
		Trailed Forager	74		184.3 ^{a,b}	42.6	90.5	279.9
		Loader Wagon	110		168.9 ^b	31.8	95.0	250.0
Drive Over Pile	64	Self Propelled	29	161.52 ^b	162.8 ^b	34.8	103.0	231.3
		Trailed Forager	8		162.9	23.2	127.7	196.6
		Loader Wagon	27		148.5 ^b	37.1	79.4	211.3

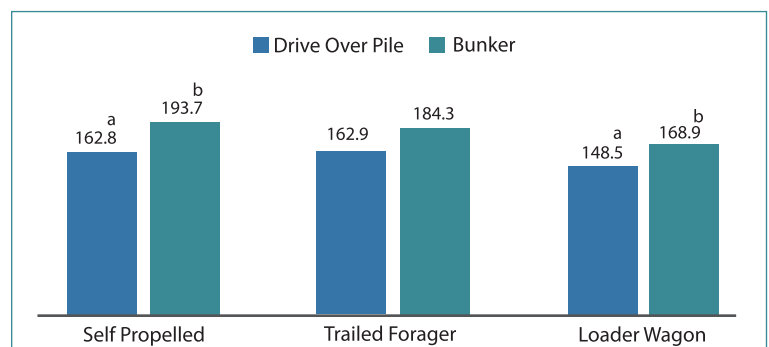
a b Means with a different suffix are statistically different at 95%.
SD=standard deviation

B. HARVESTER TYPE

- **Self propelled forager** and **trailed forager** silos had significantly higher density than the silos produced with **loader wagon** harvested forage ($P < 0.05$) (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Comparative density of walled silos and drive over piles made with the same foraging equipment

a b Means with a different suffix are statistically significantly different at 95%.



CONCLUSION

This survey has shown that:

- Walled silos are more efficient at protecting DM through storage than drive over piles due to the statistically higher density achieved ($P < 0.05$).
- Grass silage produced with a loader wagon is expected to be subject to higher DM losses through storage and feed out than grass silage produced with a self propelled or traile forager.