

# Patz LINK

YOUR LINK TO PROFIT

## High Quality Haylage from Field to Feed Bunk or Alley!

**H**arvesting high quality hay silage for the dairy herd is one of the many important goals of today's dairy producers. High quality haylage in the ration can decrease the amount of concentrates fed and purchased and increase the amount and utilization of forages produced on the farm. However, the decision on *how and when to harvest* should start with a feed bunk/alley analysis. It is often stated that when chopping for haylage, cut alfalfa 3/8 inch long with 15-20% of the stems longer than 1-1/2 inches. This provides adequate animal rumen function and is fine enough to pack well for proper fermentation. But, does this chopping guideline lead to the type of haylage the cow actually ends up consuming? Neil Broadwater, Regional Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota's Extension Services offers the following additional harvesting tips for high quality hay silage.

If your ration on paper appears to meet the minimum fiber needs, but you are having problems with cows going off feed, low fat test, decline in milk production, or DA's, laminitis, and liver abscesses, then take a close look at the ration physical form *consumed* by the cow. Start your analysis at the bunk/alley, then think back through the mixing, storage and harvesting steps to determine what adjustments need to be made to get the correct quality and fiber length in front of the cow.

Other harvesting considerations for high quality haylage include:

✓ **Poor and Unpredictable Weather Patterns**, weed encroachment and shortage of time or labor to monitor or harvest the crop at optimum nutritional quality can affect quality.

✓ **When to Cut for Haylage**. Timeliness is the issue for the first two cuttings to provide *highest yield of high quality forage*. Alfalfa quality is greatest in early vegetative stages when ration of leaves to stems is highest. The leaf weight is greater than stem weight. The total NDF (neutral detergent fiber) content of forage is

the major determinate of overall forage quality and digestibility.

✓ **Cutting at Late Maturity Can Remove Shoots** for the next cutting and delay regrowth.

✓ **Cut Alfalfa in the Morning** to speed drying and to capture sugars and starch for higher quality haylage.

✓ **Storage Moisture Recommendations:** Stave silo – 55-65%; Oxygen limited silo – 50-60%; Bag 55-68%; Bunker/pile – 63-68%.

✓ **Cutting Height**. Alfalfa yield and milk yield are highest when cutting at the lowest possible height. Cut healthy, non-stressed fields at 2" heights to achieve maximum dry matter and nutrient yields.

✓ **Length of Cut Guidelines for Haylage if Feeding Hay in Ration**. If the diet of the milking cow contains 1/4 long stem hay, then 15% of the haylage should be 1-1/2" or longer. If the diet of the milking cow contains 1/2 long stem hay, then 10% of the haylage should be 1-1/2" or longer. However, the best answer is not in the percentages, but rather by *watching the cows eat and checking the bunk/alley*.


✓ **Monitor Feed Bunk/Alley Regularly**. Haylage that is too coarse can be a problem with separation in the bunk/alley. Pushing, licking and throwing feed may be signs that cows are avoiding less palatable ingredients.

Remember, the most important goal for the dairy producer in harvesting haylage is ***maintaining quality from the field to the feed bunk/alley***.



# Top 4 Reasons Why Customers Prefer Genuine Patz Silo Unloaders

- 1. Reliability.** Designed by a farmer for farmers, Patz Silo Unloaders are designed and manufactured with the highest quality standards to meet your daily performance requirements - 365 days a year!
- 2. High-volume unloading.** Simply stated, you can depend on the Patz Silo Unloaders to deliver a fast, full-flow of feed down the silo chute at every feeding.
- 3. Reduced labor costs.** Time is money! Thanks to the high volume capabilities of the Patz Silo Unloader, feeding time is reduced which means you or your employee will be spending less time in the feed room.
- 4. Quick and easy installation from parts to same-day operation or storage!** Silo unloader parts go up the chute for easy installation whether your silo is full or partially empty.

 To learn more about the benefits of owning a genuine Patz 98-C Surface Drive Silo Unloader or Patz RD-2200 Ring Drive Silo Unloader or to request a **free brochure** contact your local Patz dealer or the Patz Technical Support Department by calling 920-897-2251, ext. 302.

## WARNING: Fresh Silage Can Contain a Deadly Threat to Health



Farmers making corn silage need to be mindful about the danger of nitrogen dioxide - silo gas - which can rapidly develop in the silo. Exposure to silo gas can cause permanent injury or death. "The highest concentrations of nitrogen oxides usually occur 48 hours after the silo is filled but no one should go into the silo for four to six weeks after filling," says Howard J. Doss, Michigan State University Extension agricultural safety leader specialist.

Nitrogen dioxide, heavier than air, may form yellowish layers of mist above the silage or drain down the silo chute. The strong silage odor can mask nitrogen dioxide's bleach-like odor. It may be present even if you can't see or smell it. Highly concentrated silo gas can kill a person in a matter of seconds, along with anyone who attempts to rescue. In low concentrations, silo gas damages the respiratory system when nitrogen dioxide combines with moisture in the lungs to form nitric acid.

Silo gas injury symptoms include severe irritation that may lead to inflammation of the lungs, though the victim may feel little pain or discomfort. Exposure symptoms - shortness of breath, a faint feeling and flu-like illness - can frequently be delayed for several days. "A person may inhale silo gas for a short time and notice no effects," Doss says "but he or she may go to bed several hours later and die while sleeping because of fluid accumulation in the lungs."

Frequently a relapse with symptoms similar to those of flu or pneumonia occurs one to two weeks after initial recovery from silo gas exposure. "The majority of people who develop initial silo gas exposure symptoms could also develop secondary ailments," Doss says. "For this reason, it is extremely important that anyone exposed to silo gas seek medical attention, regardless of the degree of these symptoms."

"If there is a dire need to enter the silo, wear a self-contained breathing apparatus," Doss warns.

Farmers who must enter the silo during or just after filling should follow these general procedures:

- Open a silo door above the silage level to allow any silo gas present to drain out of the silo.
- Run the blower at the base of silo 15 to 30 minutes before entering to let fresh air in above the silage.
- Always wear a self-contained breathing apparatus when entering the silo within 4 to 6 weeks after filling. Anything less could be deadly.
- When entering the silo after 4 to 6 weeks waiting period, ventilate the silo chute for 10 to 15 minutes and open several hatches to remove pockets of gas.
- Do not work alone in a silo. Always work in pairs so someone can go for help in an emergency. Follow applicable state regulations for entering a confined space.



Source: Michigan State University



# Protect Yourself Against the Sun

## Be Aware of the Danger.

A lot of farm work involves being outdoors when the sun's radiation is most intense. Repeated daily exposure to the sun over a number of years increases an individual's risk of developing a number of health problems, including aging and drying out of skin, various cancers and damage to the eyes.

## Take Steps to Protect Yourself.





It's especially important to protect your skin against the sun between 10 AM and 3 PM.

-  Try to limit your time in the sun. If possible, take your breaks indoors or in the shade.
-  Liberally apply sunscreen lotion (SPF 15 or higher) on the face, neck, hands, forearms, ears, and any other unprotected skin.
-  Wear sunglasses that filter out at least 90% of the sun's ultraviolet rays to avoid possible eye damage.
-  Cover up as much as possible. Lightweight, tightly-woven shirts and long pants will block most of the sun's rays. And, don't forget the hat to shade ears, face, temples and back of neck.

## Learn to Recognize Skin Problems

Conduct a 'head-to-toe' inspection regularly to check your skin for signs of damage that could indicate a health problem.

Watch for the following:

-  Changes in the size, shape or color of moles.
-  Sores that bleed and don't heal.
-  Change in sensation of a mole such as itchiness or pain.
-  New moles.

**Protecting your skin and eyes  
against the sun now can protect  
your future health!**

# JUNE Dairy Month



**Recognizing Today's Dairy Producers' efforts to protect our land, air and water while providing a variety of safe & healthy dairy products for today and tomorrow's generations.**

**New Study Shows 3-4 Daily Servings of Dairy Contributes to a Healthier You!**  
*"Dairy foods have a powerful, positive impact on weight loss," says a lead researcher.*

Small dietary changes, such as increasing dairy food intake, can improve the nutritional quality of the diet and play a beneficial role in health promotion and disease prevention. According to a recent analysis, consuming 3 to 4 servings of milk, cheese, or yogurt a day contributes to a healthier population and substantial healthcare cost savings.

A large body of scientific research collected in recent decades demonstrates that an adequate intake of nutrients (e.g. calcium) from dairy foods such as milk, cheese, or yogurt positively affects bone health by increasing bone acquisition during growth, slowing age-related bone loss, and reducing osteoporotic fragility fractures. Based on this research and recognition of Americans' low intake of dairy foods and calcium, the dairy industry, with support from health professional partners, has initiated a nutrition-based marketing and educational campaign called "3-A-Day of Dairy for Stronger Bones" ([www.3aday.com](http://www.3aday.com)). The key message is to consume three or more daily servings of milk, cheese, or yogurt to help build and maintain strong bones and achieve overall health.

Two major studies - the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) and the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) - show that dairy foods are important components of diets associated with improved health outcomes. The DASH

diet - a lowfat, calcium-rich diet that emphasizes lowfat dairy foods (2 to 3 servings/day), fruits (4-5 servings/day), vegetables (4-5 servings/day), grains, and lean meat - has been shown to substantially and quickly reduce blood pressure in persons with high-normal blood pressure. Consuming the DASH diet also reduces other factors such as blood total and low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and homocysteine levels. In addition, intake of this diet reduces the risk of stroke and osteoporosis.

Among overweight participants in the CARDIA study (a prospective investigation involving more than 3,000 young for 10 years), greater intake of dairy products was associated with lower incidence of insulin resistance syndrome components (i.e., obesity, glucose intolerance, hypertension, and dyslipidemia). Each additional serving of dairy products was associated with a 21% lower likelihood of insulin resistance syndrome.

In addition to the above, numerous other investigations support dairy foods' beneficial role in reducing the risk of medical disorders, including hypertension, obesity, insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke, some cancers (breast), and dental caries.

Source: National Dairy Council

## \$214 billion

Estimated U.S. health care cost savings over five-year period if people consumed three to four servings of dairy daily as part of a healthy diet, based on a study published in the January 2004 issue of the *American Journal of Hypertension*.  
 -Dairy Management Inc.

## New Milk at McDonald's



Starting in June, McDonald's 13,500 restaurants across the U.S. are offering Milk Jugs - lowfat (1 percent) white and chocolate milk in attractive 8-ounce, plastic, single-serve, resealable containers.

The McDonald's Milk Jugs will be offered with the restaurant's popular Happy Meal menu and a la carte with adult entrees. They deliver calcium, protein and 8 essential nutrients that growing bodies need.

## Industry Facts:

**99%** of all U.S. farms are family owned.

**74%** of all respondents to a random, national survey said dairy farmers "make a significant contribution to our society." Only teachers and doctors ranked higher among eight response choices.

**64 million** gallons of milk are consumed each year with Oreo Cookies.

Source: Dairy Management, Inc.

## From the Kitchen of:



Editor's note: This issue introduces a new featured recipe section. In honor of June's Dairy Month, these Dairy Bars are sure to be a hit with your family and friends. They are a sweet and cool treat for those hot summer days ahead!

If you would like to submit your favorite recipe for publication in an upcoming issue, please send a copy along with your name, mailing address and why it's your favorite to: Patz Sales, Inc., LINK Editor, POB 7, Pound, WI 54161.

Thank you.



### Dairy Bars

- Melt together: 1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
6 Tbsp cocoa  
1 beaten egg
- Then add: 2 cups crushed graham crackers  
1 cup coconut  
1/2 cup chopped nuts
- Mix and pat into 9 x 12 pan.
- Mix in separate bowl:  
1-1/2 cups powdered sugar  
1/2 cup melted butter  
1-1/2 Tbsp milk  
Spread over first mixture and chill.
- Melt 8-10 Hershey candy bars and spread on top of bars. Chill before cutting into squares. Keep refrigerated.



## Featured articles inside include:

- High Quality Haylage from Field to Feed Bunk or Alley!
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- Warning: Fresh Silage Can Contain a Deadly Threat to Health!
- June Dairy Month - Recognizing Today's Dairy Producers' Efforts

FREE  
Recipe

# Patz

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## 2nd International Forum for Women in Dairying

September 26-27, 2004  
Madison, Wisconsin



This forum, held every 4 years, provides an opportunity for dairy women to meet and network with other women who share mutual challenges on a day-to-day basis. A variety of workshops offered to develop personal skills.

This event is being held in conjunction with the World Dairy Expo. To request a registration packet, contact Marlene Schmidt at World Dairy Expo Office at (608)-224-6455, or e-mail at: [mschmidt@wdexpo.com](mailto:mschmidt@wdexpo.com).



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## Another Success Story: Patz Mixer Generates Increased Profits!

*"...our rolling herd average is up 1700 lbs."*

*Bob and Marty Krocak of Krocak Dairy, Montgomery, MN.*

*"We tried five or six vertical mixers. There is virtually nothing left in the Patz when it cleans out. We use high moisture baleage and feeding is much easier now. In one year, our rolling herd average is up 1700 lbs. Butterfat is up 100 lbs. Protein is up 60 lbs."*

## Patz Logo Caps NOW AVAILABLE!

These stylish navy/khaki hats feature the Patz oval logo on the front and the website address across the back. A pre-curved bill and adjustable velcro closure will ensure a comfortable fit. Ask your Patz dealer how you can own a Patz logo cap today!



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